Men's Souls Are Torn by Hatred, Violence, Fear



MRS. CAROLYN BRYANT
. . . doesn't like whistles



MRS. MAMIE BRADLEY
. . . would avenge her son

By JAMES EDMOND BOYACK
(Staff Correspondent)

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Courier

SUMNER, Miss.—The Sumner summer sun has popped open millions of cotton bolls! Field hands already are picking the crop. This is a land of beauty . . . as the bountiful harvest is gathered. Sat. 9-24-55

But here . . . men's souls are torn by fear . . . and hatred . . . and violence. Here, the atmosphere is depressing to the human spirit. Pg 1

In twenty years of covering court dramas . . . which follow violence . . . I have never witnessed such racial tension. Pittsburgh

As one man told me: "Any day now, it may explode into a massacre." Pa.

ON THE EVE of the trial, there were reports that the defense would also challenge the identity of the body found in the river. Witnesses said it was swollen to twice normal size. Tallahatchie County Sheriff H. C. Strider is said to be among those who doubt the identity of the corpus delicti.

No other colored youth has been reported missing.

No Negroes will serve on the jury. A jury panel of 125 was drawn for the case from the local population of around 500.

* * *

IN THE COUNTY Negroes outnumber whites, 3-1.

The kidnapping statute under which Bryant and Milan were indicted provides for a maximum ten-year prison sentence.

A key state witness will be young Till's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley of Chicago, who was brought here to testify as to the identity of the body.

Courier

SHE WILL positively declare that the boy was her son, "Beyond all shadow of doubt."

Edward V. Cochran, NAACP president of Greenwood, Miss., county seat of Leflore County, last Saturday was threatened by a white man whom he never had seen before. He was ordered to keep away from the trial.

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COCHRAN OWNS several businesses including the Plaza Hotel. He goes about his affairs accompanied by three bodyguards.

He told the writer:

"Before they get me, someone is going to be killed first. We've had enough of tyranny."

* * *

AS THE TRIAL began, tension between the races was building up. Negro leaders believe that no Mississippi jury is going to convict two white men for killing a colored, even if they did.

The writer was assured that the NAACP will have representatives at the trial.

* * *

ONE NEGRO leader who cannot be identified for obvious reasons told the Courier:

"No one realizes the conditions under which colored Americans are forced to live in Mississippi.

"Our backs are to the wall . . . politically and economically.

"We are determined that school integration shall come to pass in this state and in every Southern state.

"We have patiently waited too long for our legal rights already."

* * *

I AM HERE covering the trial of Roy Bryant, 24, and J. W. Milan, 35, his half-brother, indicted on charges of kidnapping and murdering 14-year-old Emmett Till.

Defense Counsel J. J. Breland is expected to challenge the jurisdiction of the court, as this state's most sensational murder trial gets under way in the little courtroom of the old grey brick courthouse here.

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THE TRIAL is opening three weeks and two days after Till's decomposed body was found in the muddy Tallahatchie River, a quarter mile inside the Tallahatchie County line.

To secure a conviction, District Attorney Gerald Chatman must explain to the all-white jury what transpired between 2:30 on Aug. 27, when Till was abducted, and the late hour when Sheriff George Smith picked up Bryant.

* * *

THE BOY was weighted down by a 125-pound cotton gin fan, bound tightly to his neck by barbed wire. A scarred bullet hole on his right temple surrounded by powder burns indicated he was shot at close range. There was a gaping hole in the back of his head, believed to be caused by maniacal beating with a heavy rock.

Till was abducted from his uncle's home, near Money, Miss., in adjoining Leflore County. Regardless of the outcome of the trial, the two men, who have pleaded innocent, face a kidnapping charge in that county. They have admitted the kidnapping.

The school boy's alleged crime was that he whistled at Bryant's wife.

* * *

THE DEFENDANTS claim they brought the boy to the Bryant General Store in Money and that Mrs. Bryant told them he was not the one guilty of the wolf whistle. They insist they let him go.

To secure a conviction, District Attorney Gerald Chatham must explain to the all-white jury what transpired between 2:30 P. M., on that sleepy Sunday afternoon of Aug. 27 when the boy was abducted, and the late hour when Sheriff George Smith of Leflore County picked up Bryant. Milan was arrested the next day.

The uncle, Moses Wright, his wife and two other witnesses are available to testify on the kidnap charge.

* * *

THE STATE must prove that the Circuit Court in Sumner, in the County's Second Judicial District has jurisdiction of the case.

As the trial opened, the scene of the murder has not been identified, nor has the alleged murder weapon been found.

However, the District Attorney may call on state law to uphold his case. It reads in part:

"If on the trial, the evidence makes it doubtful in which of several counties or judicial districts, including that in which the indictment or affidavit alleges it, the offense was committed, such doubts will not avail to secure the acquittal of the defendant."

* * *

THE JURY can return four verdicts on the murder indictment:

1. Acquittal.
2. Guilty as charged, which makes a death sentence mandatory.
3. Guilty, with a sentence of life imprisonment.
4. Guilty, with disagreement on the penalty. In this case the judge must sentence to life imprisonment.

* * *

IT IS said that Dr. L. B. Otken, who performed the autopsy, removed a ring from the boy's finger which was inscribed with the letters L. T., which were Emmet's father's initials.

The NAACP recorded young Till's death as a lynching, the first since 1951. This appellation was unanimously condemned by the state's newspapers. While they also condemned the killing, the press has "declared war" on the NAACP.

* * *

AN BC-TV camera crew was run out of Charleston, the other county seat in Tallahatchie. The two defendants are detained in the cells at the County Courthouse.

The crew consisted of Joe Michaels, interviewer; Bruce Powell and Bob Blair, cameramen and soundman John Blair, all from Chicago.

* * *

MICHAELS TOLD the Courier that the camera was set up to interview some citizens on the courthouse lawn when a tall man approached. He quickly was followed by others who formed a crowd around the crew.

On learning the object of their interview which was to secure the views on the trial of the average citizen, the man told them they had "five minutes to get out of town."

The threatening crowd was enough to convince the TV men.

Dorothy Branch was elected to succeed her.

At Saturday's emergency meeting which lasted eight hours the board of directors voted to conduct an investigation of the suspended Chicago chapter, in Chicago.

THE PROBE will be conducted by Dr. Mallory, who hails from New York; Eunice Matthews, chairman of the constitution committee, and, Mrs. Juanita Jackson Mitchell, legal counsel, of Baltimore, Md.

The Courier learned that on the basis of a petition signed by ten members of the Chicago chapter, Mrs. Mason had suspended the chapter.

During the "hot" session, Mrs. Dago labeled the proceedings a "kangaroo court" and demanded the right to see the charges made against her.

Mrs. Mason called the meeting to discuss the Chicago case, and then left for Europe, leaving Dr. Mallory with the responsibility of ironing out what promises to be a rather difficult situation.

Till's Mother Ill, Cancels New York Speech

CHICAGO, Oct. (AP)—A New York speaking engagement for the mother of a Negro boy slain in Mississippi has been called off because of the woman's illness.

Mrs. Mamie Bradley, 33, a witness at the trial of two white men acquitted of murdering her son, Emmett Till, 14, is in Provident Hospital. Associates said she is suffering from a severe cold and "nervous exhaustion."

Mrs. Bradley was admitted to the hospital last night, a few hours after addressing a National Association for the Advancement of Colored People rally in Detroit.

Rayfield Mooty, Mrs. Bradley's nephew, said she had planned to fly to New York today to speak at another NAACP rally.

TILL 'WITNESSES' LEAVE FOR NORTH

Taken Out of Miss. for 'Safe-keeping,' Claim

By DOUGLAS STARR

JACKSON, Miss., Oct. 1 (AP)—Two Negroes who reportedly saw a 14-year-old Chicago Negro boy in the hands of his abductors were taken out of Mississippi by members of their own race for safe-keeping, a Negro leader said today.

The Negro leader, who asked that his name be withheld, identified the two men as Leroy "Too-Tight" Collins and Henry Lee Loggin.

He said Collins was shipped to Chicago two days ago and Loggin, a railroad sleeping car porter, was cautioned not to return to Mississippi. He said Loggin remained in St. Louis, Mo.

Collins and Loggin disappeared after it was publicized they were scheduled to testify in the murder trial of two white men for the murder of Emmett Louis Till, 14, who whistled at a white woman.

The two men, Roy Bryant, 24, and his 36-year-old half brother, J. W. Milam, were acquitted after the jury expressed doubt the body pulled from the Tallahatchie river was identified correctly as Till's.

The Negro leader said his workers in Chicago plan to bring Collins and Loggin together in St. Louis.

On anothr phase of the Till case, the Negro leader said, his group plans to investigate a story that the husband of a Negro witness who testified was beaten last week.

Rep. Charles Diggs (D-Mich.), who attended the Till trial, said he also was checking the story.

Amanda Bradley, the witness, went to Chicago the day after the witnesses.

The Mississippi Negro leader said next week Chicago physicians would exhume the body pulled from the Tallahatchie river and attempt to establish the age of the victim.

During the trial, county officers and white witnesses testified the body appeared to have been that of a mature man and that it had been in the river longer than the three days the Till boy had been missing.

Milam and Bryant, who still face kidnaping charges in LeFlore County, were released on bond of $10,000 each Friday.

The two had been in the Leflore County jail in Greenwood since Friday, Aug. 23, the day they were acquitted of the murder charge in Tallahatchie County.

Both Bryant and Milam waived preliminary hearing Friday. The Leflore Grand Jury meets Nov. 7 and will study the case then.

In New York, A. Phillip Randolph, president of the AFL Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, had called for an FBI investigation Friday into the alleged disappearance of Loggin and Collins.

Collins ahd Loggin reportedly saw Till in the hands of his abductors. Randolph said he had wired U.S. Atty. Gen. Herbert Brownell that Loggin and Collins have been missing since Till's kidnaping.

Till Kidnap Witnesses Captives?

JACKSON, Miss. — (AP) — The Jackson Daily News accused the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Wednesday of holding three Negro witnesses in the Till kidnap-murder case captive in Chicago.

The accusation came in a copyrighted story by staffer Bill Spell, who went to Chicago to question the three Negro witnesses.

The three Negroes, the story said, "are now being held 'captive' in the deepest part of Chicago's South Side Negro section by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People."

Spell named the three as Mrs. Mandy Bradley, Mose Wright and Willie Reed and said the NAACP refused to permit them to talk to a reporter unless an NAACP representative was present.

Mrs. Bradley and Reed testified they saw Emmett Louis Till, 14, of Chicago, in the hands of kidnapers near a barn in Mississippi's agricultural delta. Wright, the boy's uncle, testified two White men took young Till from his home near Money, Miss.

Two White men, Roy Bryant, 24, and his half-brother, John W. Milam, 36, were acquitted of killing Till in a five-day trial at Sumner, Miss., nearly two weeks ago. Both are charged with kidnaping Till and are free under $10,000 bonds pending grand jury action.

After the murder trial, which attracted national interest, Mrs. Bradley, Wright and Reed left Mississippi, allegedly in fear of reprisals.

The Daily News sent Spell to Chicago to ask the three why they left Mississippi.

Rabb Says White House Is Concerned Over Till Case

Max Rabb, secretary to the President's cabinet, said last week that the celebrated Emmett "Bo" Till lynch case is currently undergoing "painful" and "careful scrutiny by the Department of Justice.

In Chicago to address the United Negro College Fund dinner at the Sheraton hotel, Rabb declared that the White House "is not tossing the Till case off."

Just how far U. S. Attorney General Brownell has gone into investigating the Mississippi lynching of Till, to determine what civil rights were violated to warrant federal action, is not known, Rabb said.

But Rabb did state that he, as secretary to the cabinet of President Eisenhower, has also "gone into" the issue and that the case has caused the entire White House "great concern."

He would not comment, however, on what steps the federal government should take if the investigation showed a breakdown in law enforcement in the state of Mississippi.

"That's for Atty. Gen. Brownell to decide," he said.

N. J. Pastors Lash Out at Till Case

BRIDGETON, N. J. — The Bridgeton Ministerial Association held a busy session with a large atendance of members at the regular October meeting held recently in the chapel of the First Presbyterian Church, the Rev. William H. Tasco presiding.

The clergymen took note of the recent trial held in Mississippi. The following resolution, in part, proposed by the Rev. W. Gordon Lowden, was unanimously adopted:

"We further call upon the members of our churches to discuss the implications of this (Emmett Till) trial in our society in the light of Christian love . . . we further assure our brethren of our concern that such events do not reoccur in our country."

The Rev. Mr. Tasco is the first colored president in the history of this local interdenominational ministers' organization. He is pastor of St. John Methodist Church in suburban Fordville.

AME bishop joins war on Dixie terror

- Urge meeting force in kind in rights war
- Says GIs died in Korea, we can die here

By JAMES L. HICKS

BROOKLYN, N.Y. — The powerful AME church thundered its disapproval over the Emmett Till murder this week as Bishop D. Ward Nichols called on his people to "meet force with force" and outlined plans to use the collective buying power of his people in the South.

At a dinner given in his honor at St. George Hotel here, Bishop Nichols said he was outraged at the economic boycott set up by southern whites in protest of the desegregation:

In the strongest statement issued by a churchman so far, Bishop Nichols said:

* * *

LEST THERE be any misunderstanding about how the church feels about the dastardly crimes against our people now being perpertrated in the south, we remind the world that if our sons and brothers can go 6,000 miles to Korea and die for freedom, then we certainly should be willing to die for our owne free heritage in America.

"We are a peaceful, Christian people," Bishop Nichols added, "but there is a limit to what we can take."

He then told his audience that already plans were under way to set up a division of consumer education within the AME church "to make use of the collective buying power of the membership to meet force with force."

* * *

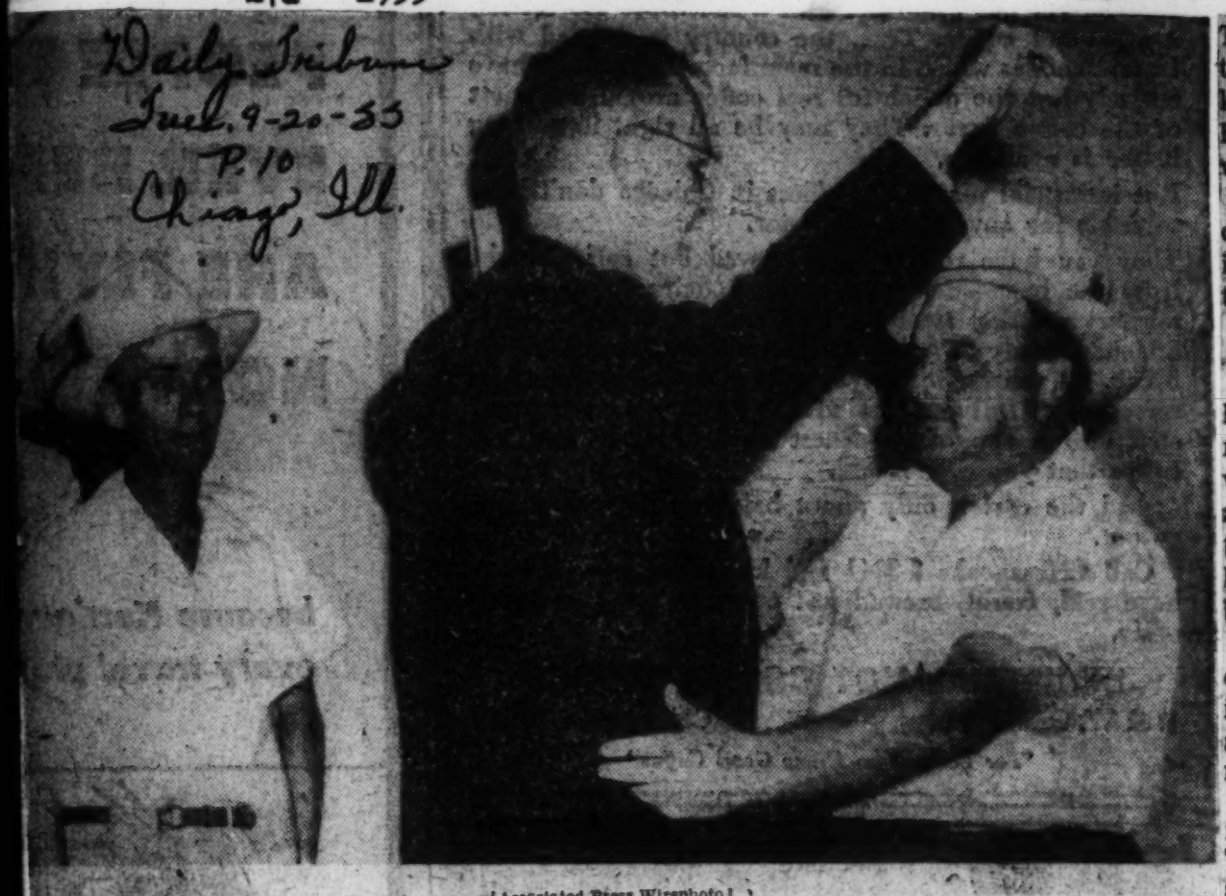
IN THIS connection, Bishop Nichols referred to reports of a withdrawal of Coca Cola from certain colored business houses in the south as a part of the boycott:

"I can hardly enjoy a drink of Coca Cola, no matter how thirsty I may be, if I know I am supporting the very interests that are attempting to strangle my brother in the South.

Declaring that he is awaiting Coca Cola's official policy on the action of some of its distributors, Bishop Nichols said, "As colored Americans we will be respected only if we reply with our biggest guns — our dollars and our ballots."

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Daily Tribune
Tues. 9-20-55
P. 10
Chicago, Ill.



[Associated Press Wirephoto]

Deputy Sheriff Ben Selby (right), searching reporter for weapons as he and other men lined up at Sumner, Miss., for trial of two men in death of Chicago youth.

Sheriff Tells of Confession in Till Trial

Daily Tribune
Thurs. 9-22-55
P. 7

BY PAUL HOLMES

[Chicago Tribune Press Service]

Sumner, Miss., Sept. 21—Testimony that Roy Bryant had admitted abducting Emmett Till, 14, Chicago Negro, went into the record in the absence of the jury at the murder trial today of Bryant, 24, and J. W. Milam, 36, his half-brother.

Chicago Ill.

The testimony was given by Sheriff George Smith of Leflore county, in which Till's kidnaping took place Aug. 28. Smith said he went to Bryant's grocery at Money, Miss., on the afternoon of Aug. 28, called Bryant into the highway, and questioned him.

"Bryant told me he went down to the house and got him and took him up to the store and found out he wasn't the right one, and that he turned him loose," the sheriff asserted.

Judge Excuses Jury

Whether the sheriff will be allowed to repeat his testimony in front of the jury will await a ruling by Circuit Judge Curtis Swango as soon as the state is able to prove Till was slain. Till's body was found Aug. 31 in the Tallahatchie river.

Judge Swango excused the jury at the demand of the defense after ruling that no proof of murder has been produced. He indicated that Smith's testimony may be received after these technical preliminaries are out of the way, however, brushing aside a defense contention that what Bryant said to the sheriff was a confidential communication.

Moses Wright, 64, called Uncle Mose by prosecution questioners and Mose by the defense, was the first witness for the state. It was from Wright's unpainted cabin in cotton fields near Money that Till was taken.

Tells of Kidnapers

Wright told of the arrival at his cabin at 2 a. m., Aug. 28, of a kidnap party which consisted of two men who entered the house, another who remained on the front porch, and a fourth person in a car who may have been a woman.

The elderly sharecropper pointed a finger at Bryant and Milam when asked whether he could identify the men who came into his house. On cross-examination, however, he wavered on his identification.

Wright said he had heard Till had "been doing some talking down at Money," so he knew when white men came to his door that they probably wanted Till.

He said one of the men called to him and said, "This is Mr. Bryant. We want to talk to you and that boy."

Steps Out on Porch

He stepped onto his porch, he said, and saw a man he now recognizes as Milam standing with a pistol in one hand and a flashlight in the other, while the person who had called himself Bryant was standing beside Milam.

Wright said the third man on the porch kept his hands in front of his face and "acted a little like he was a colored man."

Wright led two of the visitors to a back bedroom where Till was sleeping with Wright's son, Simeon, 10.

"Milam woke Till up and told him to get dressed," Wright said. "The boy sat on the edge of the bed and put on a shirt, trousers, and shoes. The men led him out thru the front bedroom where my wife and I had been sleeping.

"My wife got up but Milam told her to get back in bed, that he wanted to hear the springs. She got back in bed. As the men left I called I would pay them whatever they wanted to let the boy go but there was no answer."

Wright said he heard the kidnapers call to someone in a car parked under his persimmon tree, "is this the boy?" and that a voice came back, "yes." He said, "it seemed a little lighter than a man's voice."

Daily Tribune

Wright said the only light in his cabin thruout the kidnaping was from Milam's flashlight and admitted he never got a look at the face of the man who called himself Bryant. He insisted he saw Milam's features, however, but admitted on cross-examination that he told defense lawyers a week ago that the only basis of his identification of Milam was the fact he was a large man and bald headed.

P. 2

Firm in Identification

Wright was firm in identifying the body taken from the Tallahatchie river as that of Till. He said the body was naked and that there was a silver ring on one of the fingers which he has since learned was once the property of Till's father, Louis Till, who died in World War II.

Chester A. Miller, Negro undertaker, who examined the body as soon as it was brought ashore in a boat, said several feet of barbed wire were wrapped around the neck. He also described a gin pulley fan used to weight the body but said this was not attached to the barbed wire when he saw it.

The state tried and failed to get from Miller testimony regarding the cause of death. Miller said there was a hole like a bullet hole in the head but admitted he did not know whether the hole had been made before or after death.

A photograph of the body taken Aug. 31 at a funeral parlor in Greenwood, Miss., was admitted to evidence on testimony by C. A. Strickland, identificiation officer of the Greenwood police department.

5 New Witnessses

First confirmation in court of reports that the state had been searching last night for new witnesses came when J. J. Breland of defense counsel read the names of five persons newly subpenaed by the prosecution.

The names were those of Mondy Bradley, Walter Billips, Edd Reed, Willie Reed, and Frank Young.

Robert Smith, assistant attorney general, said he has received reports on only two of these subpenas. These were served on Edd and Willie Reed, father and son, he said, adding he has information the Reeds had recently arrived at the courthouse.

Judge Swango ruled that defense lawyers should be given an opportunity to interview the new witnesses as soon as the state has finished examining them and before they are put on the witness stand.

"Of Major Importance"

It was reported unofficially that the new witnesses are the so-called shadow witnesses sought last night in adjacent Sunflower county.

Smith and Dewitt Chatham, district attorney, are on record as saying the witnesses are "of major importance" to the state's case.

Mrs. Carolyn Bryant, 21, wife of Roy, is expected to be among the first and probably the most important defense witness. She is the woman at whom Till reportedly whistled on Aug. 24 after entering the Bryant grocery to buy bubble gum.

A warrant charging Mrs. Bryant with kidnaping was obtained by Sheriff Smith but has never been served. Defense counsel said the sheriff became convinced Mrs. Bryant had nothing to do with the abduction and took it upon himself to hold up service. As a witness in the trial, Smith is isolated with other witnesses in the grand jury room here.

Negro Leader Criticizes FBI Work in South

Evening Star
Mon. 9-26-55

BALTIMORE, Sept. 26 (AP).—A Mississippi Negro leader who played a prominent role in the recent Emmett Till murder trial, has called for an investigation of the FBI's Southern agents.

P. 2A

"It's getting to be a strange thing," said Dr. T. R. M. Howard, "that the FBI can never seem to work out who is responsible for killings of Negroes in the South."

Washington.

Uncle Tells How Lad Was Seized

Gunman in Night Identified as One Of Two Defendants

By JOHN HERBERS,
United Press Staff Writer,

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 21.—A gray-haired Negro told a hushed court today that one of the defendants on Trial for slaying his nephew came for the boy with a "pistol in one hand and a flashlight in the other."

Mose Wright, 64, was the first prosecution witness at the murder trial of white half brothers, J. W. Milam and Roy Bryant, accused of shooting and beating to death 14-year-old Emmett Till, of Chicago, on suspicion of whistling at Bryant's wife.

The testimony phase of the trial got under way two days after the sensational case reached the circuit courtroom in Tallahatchie County, named for the river in this Mississippi farm country.

Body From River.

From the waters of that river, the body of young Till, weighed down with a heavy piece of machinery, was removed to stir up one of the mostdramatic race incidents in recent years.

District Attorney Gerald Chatham said that four fresh witnesses who will be produced today could produce moredramatic testimony, but he refused to make public what it was.

Mr. Wright told the jury about the events at his home three miles from the community of Money, Miss., early on the morning of Aug. 28.

"Uncle Mose, what time did you and your family go to bed?" Mr. Chatham asked.

2 A. M. Knock on Door.

He said it was about 1 a.m., because they had been visiting late. About 2 a.m., he said, therecame a knock on the door.

"Preacher, preacher, this is Mr. Bryant and I want to talk pecially for talking," Dr. Howard said.

He identified the two missing Negroes as "Too Tight," whose real name is Leroy Collins, and Henry Lee Loggins, both in their 20s.

Gerald Chatam, district attorney, and Robert Smith, special prosecutor appointed by the state attorney genera lin the Till case, were informed of Dr. Howard's statement by this reporter.

George Smith, sheriff of Leflore County, said he had been looking for the two missing Negroes since three days after the Till case broke. He said he had been looking for the truck, too.

Stannie Sanders at Indianola, district attorney of Sunfloder County, called the new information startling.

T. J. Townsend, Sunflower County prosecutor, went to Sumner. Gov. Hugh White sent Gwin CoCle of Packson, FBI trained identification officed for the state highway patrol, to Sumner post haste.

Messrs. Sanders and Townsend, Sheriff Smith, his chief deuty, John Edd Cother, Gwin Cole and other officials then went to the Milam plantation.

Search Barn.

They searched the barn but found no blood stains or evidence of anything unusual.

At Mount Bayou, they learned that the Negro witnesses whom Dr. Howard had promised to produce were not coming. The state officials were told that after their visit, rumors swept the plantation area. Negroes heard the men were all FBI men and were afraid.

The officers told this reporter that those Negroes they talked to backed up the account given by Dr. Howard. The officers said some told of hearing blows, but none heard a shot.



STOMPING HIS FOOT and pounding fist in hand, Moses Wright (left) makes a point while speaking at Till case rally at Mt. Joy Baptist church, Chicago. Wright, uncle of lynched Emmett Till, came to Chicago to live after testifying for the prosecution at the Mississippi murder trial of J. W. Milam and Roy Bryant. Seated in front row are his wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Wright; Mrs. Alma Spearman, Till's grandmother; and Mrs. Amanda Bradley, one of the surprise witnesses for the prosecution discovered by Defender Publications. Defender Photo by Lyles.

3rd Lynching of Year Shocks Nation

Pro-Omnibus p. 1
Baltimore, Md.
Sat. 9-10-55

Witnesses discount motives cited for slaying of boy

GREENWOOD, Miss. — The brutal lynching of a 14-year-old boy, the third act of mob violence to hit Mississippi within five months, has so shocked the nation that even the state's governor has been moved to speak out.

An avalanche of bitter protests from every section of the nation has forced Gov. Hugh White to promise a complete investigation and full prosecution of persons responsible for the kidnap-murder of Emmett Louis Till, whose weighted body was found in the Tallahatchie River.

The governor broke his silence to answer a wire sent him by Roy Wilkins, NAACP executive secretary.

* * *

"...ALL DECENT citizens throughout the nation call upon you to use all the powers of your office to see that the lynchers of 14-year-old Emmett Louis Till are brought to justice," Mr. Wilkins' message read.

"We cannot believe that the responsible officials of the State of Mississippi condone the murdering of children on any provocaiton."

Governor White wired Mr. Wilkins:

"Parties charged with murder are in jail and I have every reason to believe the courts will do their duty in prosecution. Mississippi does not condone such conduct."

* * *

THE HEINOUS lynching of young Till marked the third crime of its kind in Mississippi since May 7.

Still unsolved is the brutal lynching of the Rev. George W. Lee who was shot from ambush at Belzoni, Miss., after he had refused to halt his NAACP campaign to get members of his race registered as voters.

Although FBI agents have been investigating the case since the night of the crime, no arrests have been made and no evidence has been carried before a grand jury.

* * *

THE SECOND lynching occurred on the crowded courthouse square at Brookhaven, Miss., on August 13.

Lamar Smith, 63-year-old farmer, was shot down by three men as the sheriff looked on, and allegedly made no attempt to halt the lynching.

Smith also had been active in a registration campaign, leading up to the primary election on Aug. 23.

Three men, two farmers and an oilfield worker, were later charged with causing Smith's death and are now at liberty on $20,000 bail each awaiting trial.

* * *

THE THIRD lynch victim, a native of Chicago, was visiting his uncle, Moses Wright, in Money, Miss., when he was kidnapped Aug. 27 by two white men and a woman.

Roy Bryant, a former paratrooper, who operates a store; and his half brother, J. W. Milan, not a bad boy," she said. "He's never been in any trouble. He's been my life saver—did the washing, ironing and housework so I could work.

"He has stood by me like a man. How could anyone do this terrible thing to him?"

The murdered mother, meanwhile, disclosed that she had secured the services of a Chicago undertaker to bring the boy's body back to Chicago just in time to prevent a hasty burial in a cemetery at Tutwiler, Miss.

"I had to stop burial down there," said Mrs. Bradley. "We got word to them just in time."

* * *

FRIENDS AND neighbors called at the home of Mrs. Bradley's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Spearman, where Mrs. Bradley took all phone calls during the three-day search for the boy.

Mr. Spearman has been a Chicago resident for 30 years and is a plant guard for the Inland Steel Container Co.

Emmett was an eighth grader at the McCosh School. He was born in Chicago and had been in Mississippi only once before on a visit five years ago.

* * *

FUNERAL SERVICES, slated for Saturday in Chicago for the lynched boy drew thousands of colored people to the South Side church where the body was put on view.

Mourners and curious filled the 1,700-person capacity Roberts' Temple Church of God, where the body of Emmett was taken Saturday morning from an undertaking chapel. Outside the church, an estimated 10,000 persons, stood in long lines waiting to view the body.

Funeral Postponed

Viewers filing past the youth's casket looked down on the disfigured face which a Mississippi sheriff said earlier appeared to have been struck with an ax because "it went too deep to be anything else."

The casket was opened to public view at the insistence of the boy's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley, 33, against the advice of the undertakers. Mrs. Bradley said she wanted others "to see what they did to my boy."

* * *

BURIAL SERVICES, originally scheduled for Saturday, were postponed at a late hour until Tuesday.

The Rev. Isaiah Roberts, pastor of the church, said Mrs. Bradley had requested the postponement. He said the body will remain on view Sunday and Monday.

About 30 policemen kept the crowd in lines as the curious made their way into the church for a glimpse of the body. Several women fainted in the church.

As the lines moved past the casket, a minister in the pulpit urged the viewers to contribute to a fund set up by the NAACP.

Two men sitting at a table near the casket collected the contributions.

* * *

THE REV. CORNELIUS Adams of the Greater Harvest Baptist Church told the crowd the funds would be used "so that this will not happen again."

"Pamplets were passed out in front of the funeral parlor last night telling us what to do," Adams said. "These pamphlets were passed out by Communists."

He added:

"Pay them no heed," he added. "We don't need Communist."

Last night a crowd estimated at from 15,000 to 50,000 filed past the casket in a South Side undertaking chapel between 8 p.m. and 2 a.m. The undertaker, A. A. Rayner, made the 50,000 estimate. Police made the lower estimate.

Police said the crowd was orderly although a front window of the chapel was accidentally pushed in as the throng surged forward.

SEEK TUSKEGEE 1906 GRADS

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE — (ANP)—Officials of Tuskegee are eager to learn the whereabouts of members of Tuskegee Institute's graduating class in the year 1906.

They are urged to write Mrs. Mamie Williams Marshall, 5143 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago 15, or Thomas M. Campbell, Tuskegee Institute, Ala.

former Army lieutenant, had admitted the kidnapping, but deny having anything to do with young Till's death.

The two are under arrest on a murder charge, but the woman, Mrs. Bryant, for whom a warrant has been issued, has disappeared.

The boy's body, when fished from the river, bore the marks of a beating with a heavy instrument. He had also been shot in the head.

* * *

THE BODY was weighted down with a gin pulley, a cast iron wheel used to operate a cotton gin. The wheel, about a foot and a half in diameter, weighed 150 to 200 pounds. It was attached to the boy's body with barbed wire around his waist.

Several motives have been given for the brutal crime.

First reports were Till had used obscene language in addressing Mrs. Bryant, while in the store with several other youths to buy bubble gum.

* * *

THIS WAS later amended to the report that he had been "insolent." The insolence was described as his failure to say "yes ma'm" while addressing the woman.

But this also was changed when it became known that Till, who since a polio attack at the age of three, had not been able to speak clearly.

Maurice Wright, Till's cousin, who accompanied him to the store, said the boy made a whistling sound in his effort to pronounce words.

This sound, apparently, was misinterpreted by Mrs. Bryant, who thought he was giving her a "wolf" whistle of admiration.

Ltr. 9-10-55

WRIGHT STEADFASTLY denied that his cousin had either spoken insolently or whistled at Mrs. Bryant.

Later that evening Mrs. Bryant, accompanied by her husband and his half brother, called at the Wright home and demanded the surrender of "that Chicago boy."

Bryant, witnesses said, had a pistol in his hand. They searched Wright's house and brought several boys out bebfore Till was carried to the car and identified by Mrs. Bryant.

They drove away.

Bryant and Milan, when arrested later, admitted the kidnapping, but insisted they had released young Till unharmed.

* * *

THE TWO MEN, who at first were held in the LeFlore County Jail here, were transferred Friday to Tallahatchie County where the lynching is believed to have occurred.

A grand jury was scheduled to sit at Charleston, Miss., the county seat Tuesday. If an indictment is returned, the trial is not likely to be held until the next term of circuit court in March.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington said it was keeping in close touch with law enforcement officers in Mississippi, but made no move to intervene because apparently no Federal law had been violated.

* * *

THE FBI could move in if there was evidence of violation of civil rights laws or that the kidnaping involved crossing a state line.

In Chicago, Emmett's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley, wept at the news of her son's lynching.

"I can't think, I just can't think," she said. "He didn't do anything to deserve that. Somebody is going to pay for this. The entire State of Mississippi is going to pay for this."

She sobbingly continued: "I can't work. I have nothing left to work for. My whole life is ruined. Now I need all the financial help I can get. All I want now is to get my boy's body back and give him a decent burial. Then I'll have to go to work on this thing.

* * *

"EMMETT WAS a good boy. He was mischievous, but he was



3rd LYNCHING VICTIM — Fourteen-year-old Emmitt Louis Till of Chicago, pictured here with his mother, became Mississippi's third lynching victim in 5 months last week. Because he failed to say "yes mam" to a white woman, the Chicago-born youth was kidnapped, brutally beaten and shot though the head. His body, weighted with a heavy piece of metal, was thrown in the river.

Mississippi Probe Ordered In Slaying of Negro Boy

GREENWOOD, Miss., Sept. 1 (AP).—Gov. Hugh White today ordered a complete and impartial investigation of the slaying of a fifteen-year-old Negro boy who, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People charges was a lynch victim.

Two white men charged with kidnaping the boy after he was accused of insulting one of their wives face possible murder charges in the case.

The body of the boy, Emmitt Till, of Chicago, was found yesterday in the Tallahatchie River. He had been shot in the head and his body weighted with 125 pounds of metal. The last time the boy had been seen before that was early Sunday when two white men forced him to leave his uncle's home.

"Cannot Condone It"

Gov. White told a news conference in Jackson today that "Mississippi deplores such conduct on the part of its citizens and we certainly cannot condone it." He said he had replied to an N. A. A. C. P. demand for action in the case that "the parties charged with murder are in jail. . . . I have every reason to believe that the courts will do their duty in prosecution."

District Attorney Gerald Chatham said no formal murder charges had been placed against the men yet, but that he would ask a grand jury which meets early next week to return murder indictments against storekeeper Roy Bryant and his half-brother, J. W. Milan.

In New York, Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the N. A. A. C. P., who yesterday called the murder a lynching, said he was "very glad" to hear Gov. White had ordered the investigation.

Two Other Lynchings

Tuskegee Institute at Tuskegee, Ala., for many years dompiled lists of lynchings, said it had not yet received a report on the slaying of the bod. It had listed the deaths of two other Negroes in Mississippi this year as lynchings. Before those two, the last previous lynchings had been reported in 1951.

Mr. Chatham said Bryant and Milan are in the Leflore County Jail on a kidnaping charge "so there will be no need to file a murder charge right away. But from the inforuation I now have, I will ask the grand jury for a murder indictment."

Emmitt's cousin, Maurice Wright, sixteen, said Saturday night Emmett bought some chewing gum at Bryant's store,

Car Insurance Hearing

ALBANY, Sept. 1 (AP).—A joint legislative committee announced today it would hold public hearings soon "to help resolve once and for all" the problem posed by uninsured motorists. Sen. Henry Neddo, Whitehall Republican, said his committee on unsatisfied judgments would set sites and dates for the hearings within two weeks.

"and left after telling the woman 'goodbye.' Outside Emmitt gave a 'wolf call.' I told Emmitt to be careful of what he said in the store."

About 2:30 a. m. Sunday two men strode into the home of Emmitt's uncle, Maurice said. One was armed with a gun and the other had a flashlight.

"They asked where the boy from Chicago was," Maurice said, and then took him outside. That was the last relatives saw of the boy until his body was recovered.

Emmitt had been visiting his uncle, Mose Wright, for a week and planned to return to Chicago after that.

Woman Is Sought

GREENWOOD, Miss., Sept. 1 (AP).—Sheriff H. C. Strider, of Tallahatchie County, said a warrant charging kidnaping had been issued for Mrs. Roy Bryant, the storekeeper's wife, but that she could not be found at her home.

Bryant maintains he released the boy after taking him from the Wright home near Money, Miss., twelve miles north of Greenwood.

Till's Uncle, 2d Witness Quit South

They Testified In Mississippi Trial

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 24 (AP).—Two Negroes who were the state's chief witnesses against two white men acquitted of the "wolf whistle" killing of fourteen-year-old Emmett Till, disclosed today they plan to leave the South.

Moses Wright, gray-haired, sixty-four-year-old sharecropper and Emmett's uncle, will move to Albany, N. Y. He said he has been offered a "lifetime" job by a white nurseryman.

Mr. Wright has lived his whole life in the South. He produced one of the most dramatic moments in the trial when he rose and pointed to the two white men as the ones who came to his house one night and took the boy away. He had been warned that night that he "wouldn't live to sixty-five" if he identified the kidnapers. Before the trial started he slept with two guns by his side.

Youth Goes North, Too

Willie Reed, eighteen-year-old cotton picker and ninth-grade student, flew to Chicago with Mrs. Mamie Bradley, Emmett's mother, and Negro Congressman Charles C. Diggs, D., Mich., of Detroit.

Rep. Diggs, who attended the trial as an "observer," said he felt Mr. Reed "would be safer in Chicago. He will go to school and get a job there," Rep. Diggs said.

Mr. Reed testified that a white man who he said resembled J. W. Milam took a Negro he thought was Emmett into a barn, from where he heard screams.

New Charge Jails Whites

The two white men in the case, Milam and his half-brother, Roy Bryant, were acquitted of the murder by an all-white jury yesterday. They were held in jail on kidnaping charges today but were expected to be released on bail Wednesday on Thursday.

Officers of Leflore County, south of Sumner where the murder trial was held, said Bryant and Milam, thirty-six, would face kidnaping charges when a grand jury meets in November.

The two were transferred to a jail in Greenwood after the jury found them innocent of slaying Emmett for allegedly "insulting Bryant's wife.

It was from Mr. Wright's tenant home that Emmett was kidnaped early on the morning of Aug. 28. Three days later, his body was found in the Tallahatchie River, weighted with a piece of mill machinery, bludgeoned and shot through the head.

Mr. Wright pointed out Bryant and Milam as the men who came for the boy "that did the talking at Money," a plantation community where the Bryants operated a general store. Mr. Wright had vowed to "tell what I know" at the trial "even if I get killed."

Till's Mother Coming Here

CHICAGO, Sept. 24 (AP).—Mrs. Mamie Bradley, mother of Emmett Till, said today she will attend a protest meeting tomorrow in New York.

Mrs. Bradley, who had just returned from the trial scene, said she will leave Chicago tomorrow morning by plane. She will be accompanied by Emmett's cousin, Rayfield Mooty, who at times has been spokesman for the family in Chicago. Mr. Mooty told a newsman that a "mass rally" is planned in New York tomorrow to, as he phrased it, "protest this lynching." The meeting is sponsored by the New York division of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, with the co-operation of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Mrs. Bradley left the Mississippi courtroom before the jury's verdict of innocent was returned. "I was expecting an acquittal," she said, "and I didn't want to be there when it happened."

Diggs Flies Till Witness To Chicago!

(By Staff Correspondent)

CHICAGO — Willie Reed, the 18-year-old youth, who testified that he saw Milam "wearing a pistol" the morning after the Emmett Till kidnapping, is safe here with his mother.

Reed was driven from Sumner to Memphis, Tenn., the night the trial ended by Congressman Charles C. Diggs Jr., and others in his party.

The party boarded a plane in Memphis Saturday morning and arrived in Chicago the same afternoon, where the boy was turned over to his mother.

Also in the same party was "Mandy" (last name unknown) identified as an eye-witness. She was placed on a train in Memphis, Saturday morning, en route to Chicago.

In the early morning hours of the night the crime was committed, Moses Wright is said to have put his wife on a train for Chicago.

NEGRO WITNESSES IN TILL CASE TO QUIT MISSISSIPPI

SUMNER, Miss. (AP).—Two Negroes who testified against two white men in their murder trial for the death of a Negro boy planned to move from Mississippi today.

James Featherston, in a copyrighted story in the Jackson Daily News today, said Representative Charles Diggs, Democrat of Michigan, told him he planned to take Willie Reed, 18, and Mandy Bradley, 50, to Michigan to "find them jobs."

Both had testified against Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam during their trial for murder in the death of Emmett Till, 14-year-old Chicago Negro who was alleged to have whistled at Bryant's wife.

Mr. Diggs said Till's uncle, Mose Wright, has accepted a lifetime job at a nursery in Albany, N. Y. Mr. Wright, a small cotton farmer, identified Bryant and Milam as the two men who took young Till from his bed and drove him away.

BRYANT, MILAM SEEK BOND AS RUMORS FLY

Greenwood Hearing Today; Till Reported Alive

CHICAGO HOMES GUARDED

By The Associated Press

GREENWOOD, Miss., Sept. 29.—Two white men accused of kidnaping a 14-year-old Chicago Negro boy seek freedom on bonds Friday amid rumors that the boy, Emmett Louis Till, is alive.

The rumors were not confirmed. Mamie Bradley, Till's mother, Thursday called them "a cruel hoax."

Police Guard Witnesses

Around-the-clock police protection was provided in Chicago for two witnesses in last week's sensational murder trial of 24-year-old Roy Bryant and his 36-year-old half-brother, John W. Milam.

A country jury at nearby Sumner last Friday found Bryant and Milam innocent of murdering the vacationing Chicago boy. They face a kidnaping charge and will seek release on bond at Friday's hearing.

Contradictory identification of a body found in the Tallahatchie River heavily influenced the jury in freeing the men and set off widespread speculation about Till's whereabouts if he is alive.

Mamie Bradley said in Detroit "I am willing to have my boy's body exhumed from the vault for a thorough examination if that would dispel these wild rumors.

"If he were alive, I would know. I don't know how this could come up."

Till Reported In Detroit

Sheriff H. C. Strider of Tallahatchie County said in Charleston he had heard the rumors Till was alive in Detroit but "as far as knowing anything definite, I don't know it.

"I definitely believe he's somewhere, but I don't know where," the 270-pound sheriff added.

Mr. Strider and two other defense witnesses testified the body found in the river had been dead at least eight days. If they were correct, the body could not have been Till's. He was missing three days when the body was found.

The boy's mother and Mose Wright, his sharecropper uncle, identified the body positively as Till's. The lad was abducted from Wright's home near Money in the early hours of Aug. 27.

Officers testified at the murder trial that Milam and Bryant admitted taking the boy but said they released him unharmed when they found he was not the Negro who allegedly whistled and molested Mrs. Bryant at Bryant's store in Money.

Around-The-Clock Guard

Chicago police working in three shifts guarded Mamie Bradley's home and the house where Willie Reed, a state witness against Milam and Bryant, is living. Reed may be a witness again if Milam and Bryant are tried on the kidnaping charge.

Police said they had received orders to stand guard at the two homes.

Milam and Bryant were jailed in Greenwood after the jury freed them on the murder charge. Their attorneys and prosecutors failed to agree on bond so the men remain in jail until Friday's hearing.

Leflore County Judge Charles A. Pollard said the hearing will begin at 10 a.m. Such hearings usually are brief. The judge will set bond when the hearing is over.

The alleged kidnaping took place in Leflore County.

Till's Uncle Quits Miss.; Off to N. Y.!

(By Staff Correspondent)

SUMNER, Miss. — Mose Wright, 64-year-old uncle of slain Emmett Till, left this town "forever" Friday night.

He departed by train in the "jim-crow" car, for Albany, N. Y. . . . after an unidentified white friend had sent him a one-way ticket from Mississippi to his new home in New York.

Wright's unnamed friend owns nursery stock business . . . and has offered the aged man a lifetime job.

Thus . . . Wright's pledge, told to the nation over television earlier in the week over Dave Garroway's show, "Today," . . . has been fulfilled.

WITNESSES OUT OF MISSISSIPPI

Negro Leader Says They Have Been Removed From State For Safety

JACKSON, Miss., Oct. 1 (AP)—Two Negroes, reported to have seen a Chicago Negro boy in the hands of kidnapers, have been removed from Mississippi by other Negroes, a Negro leader said today.

The Negro, who asked to remain anonymous, identified the two as Leroy (Too-Tight) Collins and Henry Lee Loggin.

The informant said the two are remaining out of the state for "safekeeping."

Reported Missing

Collins, a plantation hand, and Loggin, a sleeping car porter, had been reported missing by Phillip Randolph, president of the AFL Brotherhood of Railroad Sleeping Car Porters, in New York yesterday. Randolph asked the FBI to investigate.

But, the Mississippi Negro leader said Collins was sent to Chicago two days ago and that Loggin stayed in St. Louis after being advised by Mississippi Negro friends.

This was the latest development in the publicized case of Emmett Louis Till, 14. Two white men, Roy Bryant, 24, and his half-brother, John W. Milam, 36, were acquitted last week of a charge of murdering Till, principally on a point of identification. A Tallahatchie County jury said the state failed to convince them that a body taken from the Tallahatchie River three days after Till's disappearance was that of Till.

The youth's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley of Chicago, and his great-uncle, sharecropper Mose Wright, identified the body as that of Till and it was so buried in Chicago. The boy had been visiting Wright when he was taken away by two men.

Free Under

Still charged with Till's kidnaping, Bryant and Milam posteed $10,000 bonds and went free to await action of the grand jury in next Leflore County, which meets Nov. 7.

But, during the murder trial witnesses testified the body taken from the river appeared to be that of a mature man. They said it had been in the river longer than the three days Till had been missing.

In recent days, rumors spread throughout Mississippi that Till's disappearance was a trick and that the boy had been found alive in several places, including Detroit, Greenville, Miss., Chicago and other cities. These rumors never were verified but they persisted.

The Negro leader who talked today to the Associated Press said the body buried as Till will be exhumed. He said Chicago physicians who want to squelch such rumors, will attempt to establish the victim's age. The body was beaten and decomposed.

Mississippi has two kidnaping statutes—one calling for a maximum penalty of death on conviction; the other a maximum of 10 years.

Collins and Loggin may be called as state witnesses, if the grand jury indicts under either statute. Collins worked on a plantation operated by Leslie Milam, brother of John. During murder trial testimony, one witness said he saw Till and two Negroes enter a plantation barn with four white men, one of whom he identified as John Milam.

Neither Collins nor Loggin testified during the murder trial. State attorneys said outside of court they tried unsuccessfully to find the two.

In Chicago, a Negro newspaper said Collins and Loggin were held in jail at Charleston, Miss., in Tallahatchie County during the trial at nearby Sumner and were questioned. A jail attendant today said jail records do not show that Collins or Loggin were held.

Whatever the outcome of the Chicago exhumation, if it is made, neither Bryant nor Milam can be tried again for Till's murder, the state attorney general's office said.

Till's Uncle Says Threats Made On Life

NEW YORK, Oct. 4 (AP)—Mose Wright, uncle of a Chicago Negro boy slain in Mississippi and chief witness against two white men charged with murder, has told a New York newspaper he had to flee for his life following the trial.

Wright, now in Chicago, gave his account of the trial's aftermath in a telephone interview with the New York Post.

He was quoted as saying three carloads of white men paid a midnight visit to his cabin, just a few hours after the trial ended.

"But I had been warned they were coming," Wright told the Post. "So I put my three sons in the car and we hid out in the brushes near the cemetery.

Got No Answer

"My neighbors said they (the visitors) drove up and shone their lights on three sides of the house. They kept calling out: 'Preacher, Uncle Mose, come on out here.'

"And when they didn't get any answer, they pulled out their searchlights and ransacked the place."

Wright said he and his sons, ranging from 12 to 16 years old, remained "in the brushes" all night and then spent all the next day trying to sell—with little success—their possessions.

They went back into hiding the second night, he added, and left afterward on the journey which finally took them to Chicago.

Meanwhile, the Chicago Defender said today that Levy Collins, 22, one of two men sought for questioning as possible witnesses in the slaying of the 14-year-old Chicago boy, denied he had "any connection with or knowledge of it."

Report Third Witness Found In Till Case

CHICAGO.—(ANP) — Two new discoveries in the Emmett Louis Till murder case were revealed last week by the Afro-American in its Oct. 29 edition.

In a story from New York under James L. Hicks' byline, the Afro said the missing third witness in the Till case has been found in Mississippi and efforts are being made to get him to tell what he knows about the boy's death.

Another story written by reporter Samuel Hayes in Newark, N. J., carried charges by a Newark minister that the minister's brother was reportedly killed by J. W. Milam, one of the two half-brothers freed by a Mississippi jury in the kidnap-murder of the 14-year-old Chicago youth.

The missing witness, whose name was withheld, is said to be known by Dr. T. R. M. Howard of Mound Bayou, Miss., militant Negro leader in that state. The witness has refused thus far to talk about the murder to anyone but his immediate family, the Afro account says.

The witness reportedly told his father that he was on the truck with Emmett Till, that he has important information concerning the murder, but that he is afraid to talk because of fear that he will be named as an accomplice in the murder.

According to the Afro, the man now under questioning has named another Negro and two white men who were on the truck the night Till was abducted.

In Newark, the Rev. Benjamin Eddie Love, assistant minister of Hopewell Baptist church, told the Afro:

(1) That he was told by his mother, Mrs Marie Love, whom he last saw four years ago when his family lived in Glendora, Miss., that his brother, A. C. Love, was shot to death by J. W. Milam in 1949 during a quarrel over wages due Love.

(2) That his mother, stepfather and two brothers slipped away from the Milam farm about six months ago and went to Arkansas, Milam, according to another sister who lives and works on a nearby farm, went to Arkansas and brought them back.

They have not been seen since, the minister told the Afro.

8749

Kidnaped Negro's Body Found In Mississippi

Courier-Journal

Greenwood, Miss., Aug. 31 (AP)—The weighted body of a 14-year-old Negro boy, kidnaped three days ago because he made "ugly remarks" to a white woman, was pulled from the Tallahatchie River today.

Emmett Louis Till, a Chicago boy visiting a relative at nearby Money, had died of a bullet wound above the right ear. The left side of his face also bore marks indicating he had been cut or beaten.

Sheriff George Smith of Leflore County said two white men, already charged with kidnaping the boy, would be charged with murder today. They are Roy Bryant, Money storekeeper, and his half brother, J. W. Milam of Glendora.

Sheriff Smith said Bryant admitted taking the boy from his uncle's home, but said Till was released unharmed.

In Chicago, Till's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley, sobbed:

"Someone is going to pay for this. The entire state of Mississippi is going to pay for this.

"I can't think; I just can't think. I'm frozen. He didn't do anything to deserve that."

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People said Till's death looked like a lynching, and demanded vigorous prosecution.

Till was visiting his uncle, tenant farmer Mose Wright, when he was kidnaped Sunday morning. A deputy sheriff said Till "must have been killed Sunday, shortly after the kidnaping."

Till went to Bryant's store Saturday night with several other Negro youths. He entered the store and allegedly made some obscene remark to Mrs. Bryant.

Early Sunday two white men and a woman drove to the Wright home and asked for the "boy from Chicago." The men entered the house and returned with Till while the woman remained in the automobile.

Wright asked where they were taking his nephew. "Nowhere if he's not the right one," one of the men answered. They took Till to the car and asked the woman if Till were the right boy. She said he was and the men placed him in the car and they drove away.

Roy Wilkins, N.A.A.C.P.'s executive secretary, issued a bitter statement in New York, asserting:

"It would appear from this lynching that the State of Mississippi has decided to maintain white supremacy by murdering children. The killers of the boy felt free to lynch him because there is in the entire state no restraining influence of decency, not in the state capital, among the daily newspapers, the clergy nor any segment of the so-called better citizens."



Courier-Journal
Jul. 9-1955
P. 12
Louisville, Ky.

Associated Press Wirephoto

FAN USED TO WEIGHT BODY . . . Leflore County Deputy Sheriff John E[illegible] ran examines a big cottin-gin fan used to weight down the body of Emmett [illegible] Till, 15-year-old Negro, in a river near Greenwood, Miss.

RIVER GIVES UP BODY OF SLAIN NEGRO BOY; WHITE MEN ACCUSED

14-Year-Old Who Had Been Kidnaped In Delta Was Beaten And Shot

MURDER CHARGES DUE

Pair Held In Greenwood Jail Faces Court Action In Nearby Tallahatchie—Case Involves 'Insult'

Special to The Commercial Appeal

GREENWOOD, Miss., Aug. 31.—The body of a 14-year-old Negro boy was found in the muddy Tallahatchie River Wednesday and officers said two white men will be charged with murder in connection with his death.

A fisherman found the body of Emmett L. Till, who reportedly made "insulting remarks" to the wife of a Money, Miss., storekeeper. The body was weighted down with a heavy gin fan. The youth had been battered about the head and had a bullet wound above the right ear.

Sheriff H. C. Strider of Tallahatchie said two men, jailed here on kidnap charges in the case since Monday, will be charged with murder Thursday.

Tallahatchie Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction in the case will apparently be given to Tallahatchie County since the body was found about 25 miles north of Greenwood in that county. Tallahatchie County is directly north of Leflore County.

Held in Leflore County Jail here were Roy Bryant, 30, whose wife was reportedly insulted by the youth, and his half-brother, J. W. Milam, about 40.

Sheriff Strider said the men would probably be kept in the jail here until the grand jury convenes Monday in Tallahatchie County.

Sheriff Strider said he believed the boy was dumped into the river "about two days ago." He said Till's body was found "a good 10 miles" in Tallahatchie County, indicating the body was dumped into the river in that county since "it couldn't have floated up the river."

Bryant and Milam refused to talk to reporters Wednesday night.

Says Boy Wasn't Hurt

Earlier, Bryant told officers he took Till from the home of Till's uncle, Mose Wright, early Sunday. Bryant said, however, Till was released unharmed when it was found he wasn't the boy who insulted Mrs. Bryant, Leflore County Sheriff George Smith said.

Sheriff Smith and his deputies had been searching the Tallahatchie River, which flows by Money, since Monday.

The boys' uncle made the identification Wednesday, officers said.

Sheriff Strider said the body was found 12 miles north of Money by 17-year-old Floyd Hodges who was running a trot-line. "He went into the river in a motorboat and saw Till's feet and legs sticking up.

Tied With Barbed Wire

"He came back and called me. We went down and found the body hung in a drift," the sheriff said.

Officers reported the body had been weighted down with a cotton gin fan tied with barbed wire which weighed about 125 pounds.

Mamie Bradley, mother of the victim, said in Chicago she would seek legal aid to help convict the slayers of her son.

"The State of Mississippi will have to pay for this," she said. "I don't understand it. No matter what the boy did it wasn't worth killing him. I would expect that down there if the boy did something wrong he might come back to me beaten up. But they didn't even give me that," she sobbed.

Were Jailed Monday

Bryant and Milam were jailed on kidnap charges Monday after the boy's disappearance Sunday.

Sheriff Smith had said earlier he feared "foul play in the case."

The sheriff quoted Wright as saying two white men and a woman came to his home Sunday morning in an auto and took the youth away. Sheriff Smith said Bryant admitted taking the boy from his uncle's home, but said he was released when Mrs. Bryant said he was not the boy who made the remarks to her.

Wright said he asked the men where they were taking his nephew and was told "Nowhere, if he's not the right one."

In Washington, the Justice Department said it is taking no official interest in the case. A spokesman said the slaying "appears to be a matter for local authorities. The Justice Department is not interested in such cases unless some civil rights factor is involved."

Regret Is Voiced

A statement issued by the head of Mississippi's pro-segregation Citizens Councils called the youth's death "regrettable."

Robert Patterson, executive secretary of the Citizens Councils, said at Winona the slaying could not be attributed in any way to activities of pro-segregationist groups.

"This is a very regrettable incident," Mr. Patterson declared. "One of the primary reasons for our organization is to prevent acts of violence. We are doing our best in spite of constant agitation and inflammatory statements by the National Association for Advancement of Colored People and outside agitators."

Gov. Hugh White said in Jackson he had not been officially notified of the recovery of the boy's body. He declined comment on the case otherwise.

NAACP Fires Blast

In New York, Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the NAACP, termed the slaying a "lynching" and charged that "it would appear that the State of Mississippi has decided to maintain white supremacy by murdering children."

Wilkins also leveled criticism at Governor White, saying "We have protested to Governor White, but judging by past actions of the state Chief Executive, little action can be expected."

MURDER INDICTMENTS TO BE ASKED IN CASE OF SLAIN NEGRO BOY

Two Accused White Men Held In Leflore Jail Pending Action Next Week

WHITE DEPLORES CRIME

Governor Urges Vigorous Prosecution — Jurisdiction Is Being Transferred To Tallahatchie County

(Pictures and Additional Story on Page 35)

By WILLIAM SORRELS

Dist. Atty. Gerald Chatham of Hernando, Miss., said yesterday he would seek murder indictments next week against two white men in the slaying of a 14-year-old Negro boy.

Mr. Chatham said he would present the case to the Tallahatchie County Grand Jury, which convenes Monday at Sumner.

Pending grand jury action, the district attorney said he would not file formal murder charges against Roy Bryant, storekeeper of Money, Miss., and his half-brother, J. W. Milam.

Now In Leflore Jail

"The men are in jail on kidnap charges in Leflore County and will remain there until the grand jury meets in Tallahatchie County. Therefore, there is no need to file formal charges against them at this time," Mr. Chatham said.

Bryant and Milam were jailed in Greenwood Monday following the disappearance Sunday of Emmett L. Till of Chicago. The youth was taken from the home of his uncle, Mose Wright, near Money.

His body, weighted down with a heavy cotton gin fan, was found in the Tallahatchie River in Tallahatchie County Wednesday. He had been shot above the right ear and had been beaten, apparently with an ax, about the head, police said.

Leflore County Sheriff George Smith said Bryant had admitted taking Till from his uncle's home to question him about a "whistle" and "some remarks" Till reportedly directed at Mrs. Bryant in the Bryant Store the night of Aug. 24.

Bryant told officers he released Till when he found the Chicago Negro was not the right one.

Governor Is Aroused

Mr. Chatham said he received a telegram yesterday from Mississippi Gov. Hugh White urging vigorous prosecution of the case. Mr. Chatham said he wired the Governor that he is in constant touch with authorities in Tallahatchie County and plans grand jury action next week.

In Jackson, Governor White said in a press conference "Mississippi deplores such conduct on the part of any of its citizens and certainly cannot condone it."

In a telegram to the New York office of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Governor White said, "I have every reason to believe the courts will do their duty in prosecution."

Mr. Chatham said he doubted whether Bryant and Milam would be brought to trial at the term of court opening Monday at Sumner. "Defense attorneys can usually find some valid reason for a delay," he said.

The grand jury's decision also may not be known before midweek, it was indicated.

Searching For Evidence

Jurisdiction in the case is being transferred to Tallahatchie County since the body was found there. The youth was taken from his uncle's home in adjoining Leflore County.

Meanwhile, officers of both counties searched the river and the bottomlands near Philipp yesterday for evidence in the case.

As night fell, Sheriff H. C. Strider of Tallahatchie County said no trace had been found of a murder weapon or the white pants and shoes the youth was wearing when taken from his uncle's home.

Sheriff Strider said he believed Till was shot with a 38-caliber revolver.

At Greenwood and Money, townspeople, both Negro and white, expressed shock over the slaying. However, there was no evidence of racial tension in this heavily Negro populated plantation area.

In Money, which has a population of about 500, citizens lined up solidly to condemn the brutal killing.

Whites Express Regret

"Nobody here, Negro or white, approves of things like that. It's too bad this had to come at a time when there is so much talk about racial tension," Ben Roy, a white merchant, said.

"I hate that this happened in our neighborhood," remarked Ruben Neal, white, who operates a service station.

In Greenwood, 10 miles south of Money, Sam Ezell, a white citizen of that city, called the slaying "the worst thing that could have happened to disturb racial relationships."

Dr. George Lane, Negro physician of Greenwood, said he was "terribly disturbed and depressed" over the slaying.

A member of the NAACP, Dr. Lane said he was speaking as an individual. "I am sure that men of good will everywhere will regret its happening," he said. He added: "There are too many folks speaking for the Negro."

Negroes Saying Little

Most Negro residents were noncommittal.

"There isn't anything I can say. These are white folks," one Negro said.

The stock statement of the average Negro field hand was: "I haven't been anywhere since that happened. I've been working. I haven't heard anybody talking about it here in the fields."

In a cotton field on the Frederick Plantation near Money, Mose Wright and his sons went calmly about their task of picking cotton.

8750

Department of Justice Into Mississippi Case

Fri. 9-16-55

WASHINGTON.— The reign of terror against Negro citizens in Mississippi is under investigation by the Department of Justice for a determination of "what action can be taken on the basis of the evidence and the law," Assistant Attorney General Warren Olney III has assured an NAACP delegation headed by Roy Wilkins, executive secretary.

In a conference with Mr. Olney and other officials of the Department on September 7, NAACP spokesman urged the federal government "to delay no longer in calling a halt to the jungle fury unloosed in Mississippi."

Accompanying Mr. Wilkins at the conference were Thurgood Marshall, special counsel; Clarence Mitchell, director of the Association's Washington bureau; Ruby Hurley, assistant regional secretary; and Medgar Evers, [illegible] state NAACP [illegible]

[illegible]-point memorandum summarizing the principal events in the reign of terror which has prevailed in Mississippi.

"The wanton killing of the 14-year-old lad, Emmett Louis Till, on August 29, is the logical and inevitable culmination of a reign of terror which has been generated in the State of Mississippi throughout the year," the NAACP statement said.

It cited also the murders of Rev. George W. Lee on May 7 and Lamar Smith on August 13 because they refused to give up their right to vote. Previously, the NAACP had submitted affidavits of 19 Negro citizens who had been turned back from the polls during the August primaries.

"All the matters submitted on the denial of the vote in Mississippi, the instances of intimidation, and the murders of two men, said to be connected with voting, are under investigation," Mr. Olney told the delegation. The Department will determine what action may be taken on the basis of the evidence and the law when the investigation is completed."

Mr. Olney stated that the murder of Emmett Till had been looked into by the department and the conclusion had been reached that it was not a federal case, but one within the jurisdiction of the state of Mississippi.

Negroes Look To U. S.

Mr. Wilkins said the colored citizens of Mississippi and the rest of the nation were looking to the Department of Justice to act to protect them in the exercise of their rights.

"The White Citizens Councils in Mississippi by their campaign to deprive the Negro of the ballot and to defy the Supreme Court on school segregation have created a climate of opinion in which murder has been committed," the N.A.A.C.P. leader said.

"The hoodlums of the state have loosed terror against Negroes because they feel that the Citizens Councils will see that nothing happens to them. We feel that the government of the United States has a duty to take affirmative action."

Mr. Marshall discussed civil rights cases and possible legal action and Mr. Mitchell said the Mississippi state officers including local sheriffs had "openly conferred with leading white citizens in some localities and actually had ordered Negroes not to try to vote." He referred to a daily newspaper article published in Jackson, in which a state registrar had explained in detail the method by which Negroes were denied the right to vote.

Mr. Marshall observed that if citizens could not get relief from either the state or federal government, "the country is in what may fairly be called a hell of a fix."

The Department, Mr. Olney asserted, is concerned with the situation and its agents have had the various complaints under investigation since the killing of the Rev. Mr. Lee in Belzoni last May. He said he could make no positive statement on what action would be taken until all the facts were in and the powers under the civil rights laws were fitted to the facts uncovered.

Mr. Wilkins wound up the discussion by saying that the NAACP would press other action designed to relieve the situation in Mississippi and not depend exclusively on moves in the courts.

Mourning Called for Slain Lad

Pittsburgh Courier 9-17-55

GREENWOOD, Miss. — In protest for the ruthless killing of Emmett Till, the Rt. Rev. H. T. Primm, presiding Negro Bishop of the AME Church of Mississippi and Louisiana called for two days of mourning last week.

The Bishop asked that all those under his jurisdiction wear a strip of black ribbon three inches long, and to answer if anyone asked about the ribbon that it means "heaven and earth set themselves against such ruthless crimes and lawlessness."

AME Bishop Calls For Two Days Of Mourning To Protest Till Slaying

Det. 9-10-55

New Orleans, La. Sept. 6 The Presiding Bishop of the Eighth Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, which includes the state of Louisiana and Mississippi has issued a call for two days of mourning to protest the slaying of Emmett Louis Till, the 14-year-old Negro boy killed because of a "wolf-whistle" at the wife of a White Storekeeper at Money Mississippi.

Bishop H. Thomas Primm, who had just concluded a very successful Youth Education Institute at Cambell College in Jackson Mississippi asked that September 8 and 9th be set aside as days of mourning.

He called for Mississippians to wear a strip of black Ribbon three inches long on those days. He asked that everybody in the state take part in the mourning.

"Come up here, and tell Simmie to get my corset and one or two slips and a dress or two and bring them to me.

"If Eula sent my dress, bring it, also my stockings.

"We told my brother that it wouldn't be good for him to come back down there, so he believes us now."

'READY TO LEAVE'

Then she added, "I'm ready to leave here now."

As she closed, "All from your very truly. . ."

A plea like this found Mose Wright doggedly trying to gather his cotton, trying to salvage a few dollars with which to start life anew at 64.

Jewish Women Protest Miss. Lynch-Murder

World, Birmingham, Ala.
Sat. 9-17-55

NEW YORK—(ANP)— The Emma Lazarus Federation last week announced its support of a plan to hold monster mass meetings in protest against the murder of the Till boy."

Earl Brown, New York city councilman, submitted the plan for mass meetings all over the country. Victim of the murder was Emmett L. Till, a 14-year-old boy from Chicago who was visiting relatives in Money, Miss.

His badly beaten body was found in the Tallahatchie river several days after he supposedly insulted a white woman in a grocery store in Money. He was buried in Chicago after thousands of people viewed his remains in Roberts Temple Church of God in Christ Church.

The Jewish women's federation, in a telegram to Brown, offered full cooperation in the development of mass meetings. The group pointed out that "jim crow breeds moral degeneration and becomes a threat to all Americans."

In the telegram, the women urged Councilman Brown to introduce a resolution in the City Council to ask President Eisenhower "to take action on young Till's murder and rampage of racism in Mississippi."

Urges Husband To Leave Dixie

Defender Chicago, Ill.
Sat. 9-17-55

MONEY, Miss. — The uncle of Emmett Louis Till was urged by his wife to flee Mississippi one day before the boy's body was found.

In a letter to Mose Wright, his wife, Elizabeth, who had already gone into hiding urged him:

"Tell Simmie (one of their sons) to gather me up some slips and dresses and come up here. I mean you come."

It was dated Aug. 30.

That was two days after two white men entered her home and kidnapped Emmett Louis Till. She was somewhere hiding. A few days later she rode to Chicago with Till's body.

The letter went on: —

'AVOID MONEY'

"I am writing to tell you, don't let the children go to Money. The sheriff called down to Money to see if they had found the boy's body."

Department of Justice Decides That Murder of Boy Is Not Federal Case

Washington—The reign of terror against Negro citizens in Mississippi is under investigaton by the Department of Justce for a determination of "what action can be taken on the basis of the evidence and the law," Assistant Attorney General Warren Olney III has assured an NAACP delegation headed by Roy Wilkins, executive secretary.

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Accompanying Mr. Wilkins at the conference were Thurgood Marshall, special counsel; Clarence Mitchell, director of the Association's Washington bureau; Mrs. Ruby Hurley, southeast regional secretary; and Bedgar Evers, Mississippi state NAACP secretary. The group submitted an eight-point memorandum summarizing the principal events in the reign of terror which has prevailed in Mississippi.

Killings Cited

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It cited also the murders of Rev. George W. Lee on May 7 and Lamar Smith on August 13 because they refused to give up their right to vote. Previously, the NAACP had submitted affidavits of 19 Negro citizens who had been turned back from the polls during the August primaries.

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Discuss Rights

Mr. Marshall discussed civil rights cases and pending action and Mr. Mitchell said the Mississippi state officers including local sheriffs had "openly conferred with leading white citizens in some localities and actually had ordered Negroes not to try to vote." He referred to a daily newspaper article published in Jackson, in which a state registrar had explained in detail the method by which Negroes were denied the right to vote.

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8751

Offers Cash For Slayers Of Boy

Defender

Sat. 11-12-55

The Chicago Defender this week is offering a $5,000 cash reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the killers of Emmett Louis Till.

P. 1

The announcement was made Thursday morning by John H. Sengstacke, Defender publisher.

Till, 14, of Chicago, was slain while visiting relatives in Money, Miss., after he was taken from the home of his uncle Aug. 28.

The uncle, Moses Wright, now living in Chicago, testified that J. W. Milam and Roy Bryant took the youngster from his home.

Three days later his mutilated and bloated body, weighted by a piece of machinery, was found in the Tallahatchie river.

Milam and Bryant, indicted for murder, were acquitted at a trial in Sumner, Miss., in September.

On Monday the La Flore county grand jury will weigh kidnap charges against the two men.

In announcing the reward, Sengstacke pointed out that the Defender has pledged itself to following up the case until either justice is done or all possible avenues of investigation have been explored.

"At considerable expense," he said, "the Defender has provided the most thorough coverage of the case since its beginning. Our reporters and investigators located and brought Levi "Too Tight" Collins to Chicago for interrogation.

"We have talked with Henry Loggins.

"Both were reported to have vital information that would lead to the killers of young Till.

"We are not satisfied with the stories of either of these men. We are not satisfied with the investigations of the case made prior to the trial.

"By offering this reward, we do not intend to clear anyone of guilt or suspicion. We are seeking concrete evidence that can be used in a court of law to bring about the conviction of the guilty party or parties.

"We are convinced however, that there are persons with enough knowledge of what actually happened to bring the killers to justice.

"We are willing to pay for that information."

8752

Mississippi Grand Jury Recesses Without Verdict In Slaying of Negro

Courier-Journal 9-6-55
Louisville, Ky.

from Wire Dispatches

Sumner, Mississippi, Sept. 5.—A Mississippi grand jury recessed without a verdict tonight after it was asked to hand down murder indictments against two white half brothers in the "wolf-whistle" slaying of a 14-year-old Chicago Negro.

The grand jury said several witnesses would be called tomorrow in the case.

The grand jury began deliberating the kidnap-slaying case of Emmett Louis Till while in neighboring Leflore county National Guardsmen patrolled the jail where the half-brother suspects, Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam, are being held.

A murder conviction in Mississippi without recommendation for mercy brings a mandatory death sentence.

District Attorney Gerald Chatham asked for the murder indictments. The jury heard several investigating oficers' testimony in an all-day session, then recessed without a decision.

"I don't know whether we will get an indictment or not, but we are putting all the evidence we have before the jury," a prosecuting official said.

Young Till's body was pulled from a river last Wednesday after he allegedly whistled at Bryant's wife.

National Guard troops were called to the Jail at Greenwood as a precautionary measure.

Sheriff George Smith of Leflore County said he had received calls threatening action against Bryant and Milam.

Sheriff H. C. Strider of Tallatchie County also said he had received threats against two others.

Strider described the letters as "filthy and vicious." He said they were postmarked in Chicago. The sheriff said he had asked the F.B.I. to investigate.

Automobiles bearing Illinois license plates forced cars driven by the Bryant family and other persons off nearby roads over the weekend, Strider said.

Referring to the automobile incidents, Strider said:

"Those folks seem to think they are coming down here and take over—I don't think they are."

Strider said he still thinks Till is alive. He said the body pulled from the river appeared to be that of an older person. But none of the other officials in the case support the theory.

Till's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley of Chicago, has said the body was that of her son.

Mississippi Sets Probe in Slaying

Herald Fri. 9-2-55

GREENWOOD, Miss. — (AP) — Gov. Hugh White ordered a "complete investigation" Thursday into the slaying of a teen-aged Chicago Negro who allegedly wolf-whistled at a White woman.

"I have called upon the district attorneys of Tallahatchie and Leflore counties to make a complete investigation and fully prosecute the guilty parties," White said in a statement issued in Jackson.

"Mississippi deplores such conduct on the part of any of its citizens and certainly cannot condone it."

Death came to Emmitt Louis Till from a bullet wound behind his ear soon after he was kidnaped from the tenant farm home of his uncle — apparently in revenge for the two notes he sounded at a White storekeeper's wife.

A 16-year-old cousin, Maurice Wright, told Thursday of the incident preceding Till's death.

"When he came out of the store," said Wright, "I told him 'Boy, you know better than that.' He just laughed."

Two White men have been accused of the boy's kidnap-slaying and it is likely a Tallahatchie county grand jury will consider the charges by Tuesday. Held without bond are Roy Bryant, the storekeeper, and his half-brother, J. W. Milam, of Glendora.

Sheriff H. C. Strider of Tallahatchie county said a warrant charging kidnaping had been issued for Mrs. Bryant.

Bryant steadfastly maintains he released the boy after taking him from the home of Mose Wright near Money, Miss., 12 miles north of Greenwood.

'Wolf Whistle' Slaying Probed

Evening Star Sat. 9-3-55

GREENWOOD, Miss., Sept. 3 (AP). — Authorities apparently have abandoned the search for Mrs. Roy Bryant, the 27-year-old Mississippi white woman who reportedly was the object of wolf whistles that resulted in the kidnap-slaying of a 14-year-old Chicago Negro. P. 2A

District Attorney Stanny Sanders of Indianola, Miss., said yesterday there were "no plans at present for picking up Mrs. Bryant."

Washington D.C.

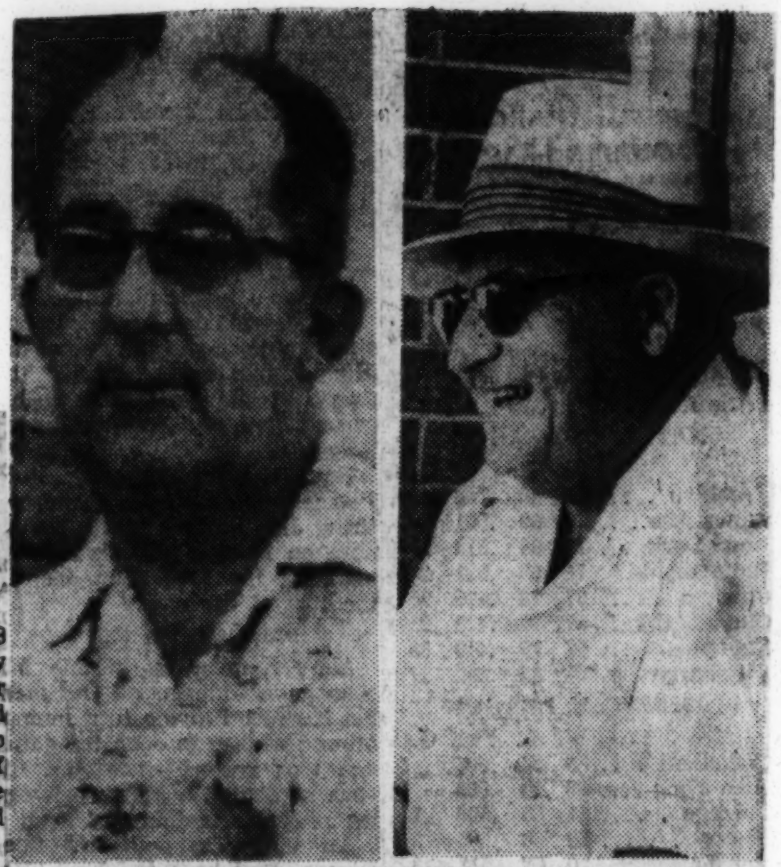
Her husband, a 24-year-old former paratrooper, and his half-brother, J. W. Milan, face kidnap and murder charges at a session of the county grand jury Monday.

The Governors of Mississippi and Illinois have called for a complete investigation into the slaying of Emmett Till, whose nude, battered body was found in the Tallahatchie River three days after the wolf whistle incident.

The Mayor of Chicago has called on President Eisenhower urging that the Federal government utilize all its facilities "so that the ends of justice may be served."

Young Till's body was returned to Chicago yesterday.

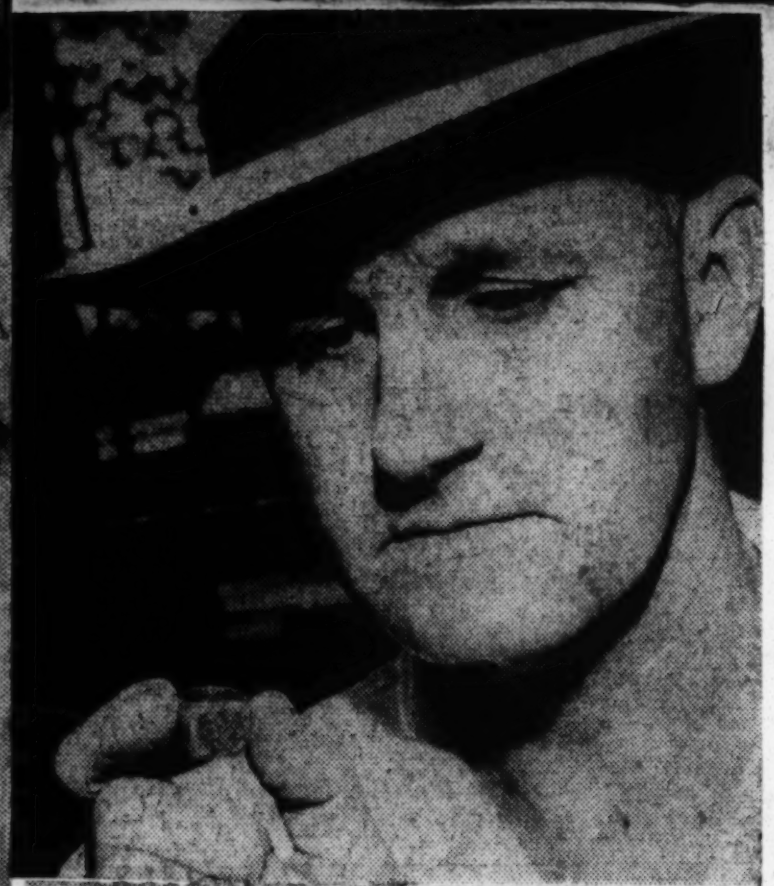
Three Mississippi newspapers condemned the kidnap-slaying in stern-worded editorials, but the Jackson Daily News accused the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People of trying to stir up hatred against the South and Mississippi by classing the death as a lynching.



SHERIFFS APPEAR—Sheriff George Smith (left) of Leflore County and Sheriff H. C. Strider of Tallahatchie County appeared before the Tallahatchie County Grand Jury yesterday at Sumner. The jury is investigating the death of the Negro youth.



TROUBLE SHOOTERS— National Guardsmen were called out Sunday night at Greenwood, Miss., to guard the safety of two white prisoners jailed on kidnap charges. No trouble was reported Sunday night or yesterday.

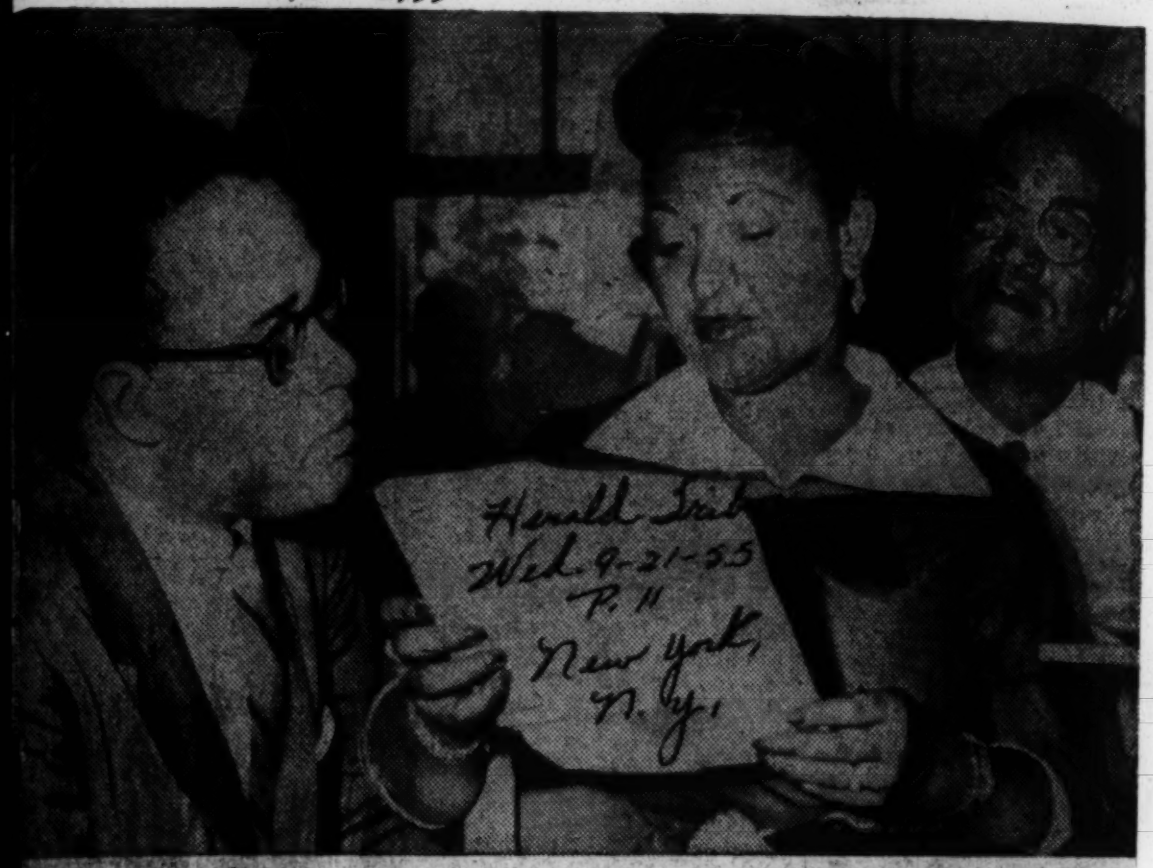


CLUB — Deputy Sheriff John Ed Cothran of Greenwood examines a ring found on a Negro whose body was recovered from the "Tallahatchie River last Wednesday. The Negro was identified as Emmett L. Till of Chicago and relatives said the ring belonged to him.



TILL'S RING — The ring found on the body bear the initials 'L. T.' which reportedly stand for Louis Till, father of Emmett Till.

8753



Associated Press wirephoto

Mrs. Mamie Bradley, mother of Emmett Louis Till, with Rep. Charles C. Diggs, D., Mich. (left), and her father, John R. Carthan, at the trial of her son's alleged slayers at the Tallahatchie County Courthouse in Sumner, Miss., yesterday.

State Asks Mississippi Trial Delay

Herald Tribune
Wed. 9-21-55
P. 1
New York, N. Y.

New Witnesses Reported Found

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 20.—The murder trial of two white half-brothers, accused of the "wolf-whistle" slaying of a Chicago Negro boy, was recessed today in a surprise move by the prosecution which announced that unidentified new witnesses had been found.

Over the objections of counsel for co-defendants Roy Bryant, twenty-four, and J. W. Milam, thirty-six, Circuit Judge Curtis M. Swango agreed to hold up the testimony phase of the trial until tomorrow at 11 a. m.

Jury Completed

Selection of a twelve-man jury was completed today and court had convened again following a luncheon recess when District Attorney Gerald Chatham made his request.

Defense counsel J. J. Breeland jumped to his feet, objecting that the procedure was "very unusual," but Judge Swango ruled that the request was "not unreasonable."

Bryant and Milam are accused of killing fourteen-year-old Emmett Louis Till for allegedly whistling at Bryant's wife, a courtroom spectator and important state witness.

The boy's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley, and a Negro Congressman, Charles C. Diggs, D., Mich., were among spectators packed shoulder to shoulder in the humid second-floor courtroom.

Judge Swango said in granting Mr. Chatham's request that he was ready to recess court for other reasons. He said there was such a huge crowd that a sudden fire would create "a great tragedy." He said he will allow no standees at tomorrow's session except those on official business. The room was so packed today it took five minutes to shove a path through the throng to the rear of the room.

Herald Tribune
Wed. 9-21-55
P. 11

Delay Asked

"The state finds it necessary to ask the court to give additional time for a conference with witnesses," Mr. Chatham told Judge Swango. "These indictments were returned during the present term, and a special consel who was appointed by the state Attorney General has not had time to confer with material witnesses. We have learned of additional witnesses whose testimony will be of value to the state."

Mrs. Bradley and Rep. Diggs arrived as the jury was being completed. They were seated with the segregated Negro press in the jammed courtroom.

View Cut Off

During the morning, fifty more white men were led up the back stairs by deputies and found cramped places inside the railing. These late arrivals cut off the view of the eight Negro reporters at their table just behind the railing.

Judge Curtis Swango warned, before the session got under way, that several photographers violated the rules yesterday by taking pictures during the proceedings and that any further violations would result in penalties.

Jury Is Guarded

The children of the defendants —each has two small sons— again came to court, as did their wives. But the boys grew restless on their fathers' knees, and when they started crawling over the railing they were led out of the chamber.

Selection of two farmers, Jim Pennington and Gus Ramsey, completed the jury. All the jurors swore they had no fixed opinions about the case and had not been connected with a defense fund of $6,000 collected for Milam and Bryant.

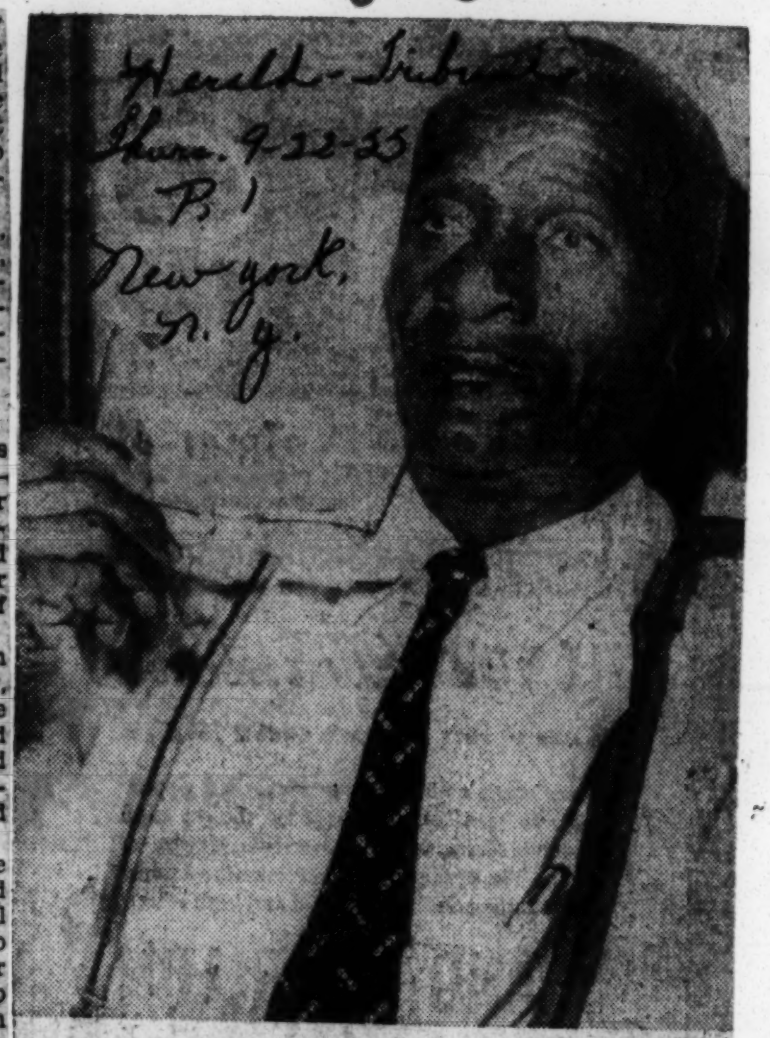
The jury was sent to the Delta Inn for the night, guarded by four bailiffs—twice the usual number—who were told not to let the jury see newspapers or television newscasts or listen to radio news. "You can let them loo kat shows if you want to, but no news," Judge Swango instructed the guards.

Rep. Diggs said he came to the trial as an observer. Negro leaders have called the Till slaying a "lynching" and an "atrocity."

In New York, A. Philip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, A. F. L., called for a mass meeting in Harlem Sunday to protest "the lynching of young Emmett Louis Till in Mississippi."

"Assault" Charged

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 20 (AP).—A defense spokesman said today that an attempt would be made to show that Emmett Louis Till assaulted Mrs. Bryant Aug. 24. He explained that "assault" was used in the legal sense, which implies any untoward incident such as an indecent advance, but not actual physical attack or rape.



Associated Press wirephoto

FIRST WITNESS—Mose Wright, uncle of the slain fourteen-year-old Emmett Till, in Sumner, Miss., yesterday before he took the stand.

Slain Negro Boy's Uncle Points to Two on Trial

Herald Tribune
Thurs. 9-22-55

By the Associated Press

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 21.—Mose Wright, sharecropper, pointed a knobby finger at J. W. Milam today and said: "There he is," identifying him as one of the men who abducted the sharecropper's nephew in the early morning hours of Aug. 28. Then the slight, four-foot-10 farmer pointed out twenty-four-year-old Roy Bryant, Milam's half-brother, as the second man who roused the Wright family from bed at 2 a. m. and took Emmett Louis Till away.

Bryant and Milam, thirty-six, are accused of murdering the Chicago Negro boy, fourteen, because he allegedly whistled at Mrs. Bryant. District Attorney Gerald Chatham called Mr. Wright as the state's first witness.

County Sheriff George Smith said Bryant, a backroad grocer, admitted kidnaping the boy last month but denied killing him. The jury was sent out of the courtroom while Sheriff Smith told about the admission.

Circuit Court Judge Curtis Swango spent some time listening to defense objections with the jury out of the room. Eventually, however, the judge permitted both men to testify before the jury about the purported admission of abduction.

The boy reportedly talked and acted indecently toward Bryant's twenty-one-year-old wife, Carolyn, and "wolf-whistled" at her. The incident occurred Aug. 24 at the Bryants' small grocery in near-by Money, Miss.

Testimony began shortly after Mr. Chatham said he had six new witnesses who would place the defendants "with the Negro boy several hours after he was taken from Mose's shack." He also said the witnesses would place the accused men in the area where Emmett's body was pulled from the Tallahatchie River Aug. 31.

Mr. Wright, the first witness, pushed his way firmly through the crowded courtroom and sat down in the big witness chair. Mr. Chatham asked the neatly dressed farmer to describe the events of Aug. 28.

"About 2 o'clock . . . some one was at the door. They said, 'Preacher, Preacher, this is Mr. Bryant.' I got up and opened the door.

"Mr. Milam was standing at the door with a pistol in his right hand and a flashlight in the other," Mr. Wright declared.

Mr. Chatham interrupted: "Uncle Mose, do you see Mr. Milam in the courtroom?"

The Negro rose and pointed at the defendant. "There he is," he said.

He then pointed out Bryant as the man who stood in the darkness of the front porch with Milam.

Mr. Wright then said: "He (Milam) asked me if I had two boys out of Chicago." The visiting boys were Emmett and six-teen-year-old Wheeler Parker, Mr. Wright's grandson. They had been vacationing there a week.

Boy Taken From Bed

Mr. Wright said one man told him: "I wants that boy who done that talk at Money." He said Milam told him after seizing Emmett: "If that's not the right boy, we are going to bring him back and put him in the bed." Emmett and Wheeler had been sharing the same bed in the six-room cottonfield shack.

As the men left the house, said Mr. Wright, one of them warned him not to cause any trouble or "You'll never live to be sixty-five." Mr. Wright said his wife left her bed at the height of the commotion, and one of the men ordered her to "get back in that bed and I want to hear those springs."

Offer of Money Ignored

"My wife said," Mr. Wright testified, "'Listen,' she said, 'we'll pay you whatever you want to charge, we'll pay you if you release him.'" Mr. Wright said the men didn't answer.

The witness said he watched from a screened porch as the men took the boy to a car parked on a gravel road fifty feet from the porch. Its headlights were off. He said he heard one man ask—apparently of some one in the car—"Is this the boy?" "Somebody said 'Yes,'" said Mr. Wright.

"Was that a man's voice or a woman's?" he was asked.

"It seemed a little lighter than a man's," Mr. Wright replied.

Saw Body Recovered

Mr. Wright then told of watching the car drive away toward Money, its lights still off. He said he never saw Emmett alive again.

He was an onlooker when the body was taken from the river.

"Who was it?" asked Mr. Chatham, referring to the body.

"Emmett Till," Mr. Wright answered.

The witness, speaking firmly, said he watched authorities remove from the body a ring like the one Emmett wore—an initialed signet ring originally worn by his father.

Sheriff Testifies

Sheriff Smith testified about his interrogation of Bryant after Mr. Wright had identified both defendants as the abductors of his nephew. Sheriff Smith, a big man in a plaid shirt, is law-enforcement head of neighboring Leflore County, the scene of Emmett's abduction. The body was found in Tallahatchie County, where the murder trial is being held.

Sheriff Smith testified he talked to Bryant in a country store a few hours after the boy disappeared. "He said he went there and got him," Sheriff Smith said of Bryant, "and brought him up to the store and he wasn't the right one and he turned him loose."

"Who did he say went down to Mose's house with him?" asked Mr. Chatham.

"He didn't say," Sheriff Smith replied.

Defense Objects

The defense objected strongly to admission of any purported confession. Judge Swango agreed the state had to prove a crime was committed before it could ask to introduce any such statement before the jury. At that time, Judge Swango added, all the state had done was to show that Emmett Till was dead.

The state then went on to other testimony, attempting to show that Emmett died of a bullet wound in his head.

Court Is Packed

The twelve jurors and their one alternate, all in shirt sleeves, smoked occasional cigarettes or cigars as they listened attentively to the state's opening testimony in the three-day trial. Most of them are Mississippi delta cotton farmers.

The second-floor court was packed again today but aisles were clear and standees were limited. The room seats 280. The crowd, many of them white women with fans, were a quiet and attentive audience.

Bryant and Milam listened intently to Mr. Wright's testimony. For the first time the defendants were without their wives and children. The two small sons of each defendant were not brought to court today. The wives were quarantined in another room, as were all scheduled witnesses, to await their call to the stand.

Two Others Missing

Meanwhile in neighboring Sunflower County, District Attorney Stanny Sanders said a Negro doctor had told him that two Negro men, last seen in company of Emmett, had disappeared.

Mr. Sanders said he was investigating a statement by Dr. T. R. M. Howard, of Mound Bayou, that the slaying of Emmett probably took place in a headquarters shed on a plantation near Drew in Sunflower County.

Dr. Howard said he could produce four or five witnesses who saw four white men and three Negroes, including Emmitt, enter the shed in the early hours of Aug. 28. A pickup truck left the shed later with only the white men, the physician said. He said the two missing Negroes were plantation workers Leroy Collins and Henry Lee Loggins.

Believe Two Held To Shield Till Slaying

CHICAGO—(ANP)—It was reliably reported here that two Negro men who reportedly saw the murder of Emmitt Till and who might have taken part in it, are being held in Mississippi Jail.

Leroy Collins and Henry Loggins, both employed by Leslie Milam, brother of J. W. Milam, who was freed of murder charges in the Till death, are said to have been in jail at Charleston, Miss., under assumed names during the trial.

They were linked to the crime by Willie Reed, surprise state witness, who testified that he saw the Till boy in a truck with eight men, four of whom were Negroes, shortly after Till was kidnapped.

According to a newsman, a woman who has a relative in the jail at Charleston went to the jail on a visit on Sept. 19, the day the Till trial opened. While there she was spoken to by a man who was washing clothes.

She said the man gave her a message to deliver to a friend. Later, during the visit, she learned that the man was Leroy Collins, who was being held with a friend for investigation.

The pair had been arrested, it was said, while washing blood from a pickup truck. They claimed they had been deer-hunting.

The woman said that when she delivered the message she was told that the man was Leroy Collins and that his companion was Henry Loggins.

Reed testified during the trial that he had seen the truck with Till in it near the Leslie Milam place. He said the truck went into the barn and later he heard screams coming from a barn.

It is believed that Collins and Loggins are the same men who were seen in the truck with Till and his abductors and that the two Negroes were forced to take part in the murder.

2 Witnesses In Till Trial Leave Mississippi

SUMMER, Miss.—(ANP)—Two key witnesses in the Emmett L. Till murder trial left here last week to take up life elsewhere.

The two, Willie Reed, 18, and Mrs. Mandy Bradley, 50, both of whom testified at the trial where Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam were acquitted of charges they murdered 14-year-old Till, left with Cong. Charles Diggs who attended the trial as a spectator.

Diggs said he would seek employment for the pair in Chicago.

Reed had testified he saw Milam leave an equipment shed near Drew and that he was armed. From the inside of the shed, Reed testified he heard "some hollering and some kicks." He also testified that he saw a Negro boy who resembled Till sitting on the back of a pickup truck and that the truck later parked in front of the shed.

Mrs. Bradley testified she looked out of her window and saw a man who was "big and bald-headed" leave the shed and walk to the well for some water.

These events supposedly happened after Bryant and Milam said they released Till after Bryant's wife said Till was not the boy who "wolf-whistled" at her.

Cong. Diggs also announced that a life-time job had been found for Moses Wright, the great uncle from whose home young Till was kidnapped. Wright will work in Albany, N. Y. Wright testified and identified Bryant and Milam as the men who took Till.

Diggs plans to challenge Miss. solons

DETROIT, Mich.—Back from Mississippi where he attended the kidnap-murder trial in the Emmett Till case, Congressman Charles Diggs said Sunday he intended to challenge "in court or otherwise" the right of every Mississippi congressman to be seated.

Mr. Diggs indicated that he would base his objections on the ground that many colored citizens in Mississippi are "not permitted to vote."

He declared: "I think the basis of representation in Congress from Mississippi should be reduced. The total population is used for basing the number of congressmen, but the colored citizens, included in the totals, are not permitted to vote."

The congressman pointed out that Tallahatchie County, where the Till trial was held, "has not a single registered voter," although colored persons make up 63.5 per cent of the county's total population.

27a 1955

MISSISSIPPI KIDNAPPING 8754

Jury Spends Three Hours Hearing Till Witnesses

State Seeks Indictment for Kidnaping

By W. F. MINOR

(Times-Picayune Staff Correspondent)

GREENWOOD, Miss., Nov. 8—An all-white Leflore county grand jury spent three hours Tuesday afternoon in its probe of kidnaping charges in the widely publicized Emmett Till case and recessed until Wednesday.

District attorney Stanny Sanders said he expected the grand jury to report its findings Wednesday around midday.

Two white men—Roy Bryant, 24, and his half-brother, J. W. Milam, 36—face charges of having abducted Till, a 14-year-old Chicago schoolboy from the cotton field cabin of his great-uncle Mose Wright, near Money, Aug. 28. Till has been missing ever since.

A body which officers believed was Till had been found in the Tallahatchie river three days after the boy's disappearance.

Pair Acquitted

A Tallahatchie county jury had acquitted Bryant and Milam of murder charges six weeks ago when it refused to believe that a body found in Tallahatchie river within that county was Till.

Before the grand jury here Tuesday afternoon went all four of the witnesses which the state is counting on to obtain a kidnaping indictment against the two men.

Wright, the 64-year-old grand uncle of Till who has since moved to Chicago, was the first called before the jury.

The aged Negro, who pointed a gnarled finger at Milam and Bryant in the murder trial at Sumner and identified them as two men who had come to his house and taken the boy away, stayed 25 minutes with the investigating body.

Reed Called

At 3:15 p. m. the jury called Willie Reed, an 18-year-old former Sunflower county cotton picker, who had been a "surprise" witness in the Sumner trial.

Reed had testified in the murder trial that he saw a boy resembling Till in a pickup truck on the morning that he was reported to have been kidnaped.

The Negro youth said that the truck had driven to a shed in the rear of a Sunflower county farm operated by Leslie Milam, brother of J. W. Milam. Later he said he heard cries from within the shed and saw a man who looked like Milam come from the shed and get a drink of water from a well.

The jury here heard Reed for 19 minutes.

Others Testify

Two other key state witnesses—Leflore county Sheriff George Smith and his chief deputy, John Ed Cothran—were individually called before the jury shortly afterwards.

The two officers spent only a few minutes each behind the closed doors of the jury room.

In the Sumner murder trial, Smith and Cothran had testified that Bryant and Milam made oral statements to them that they had taken Till but later released him unharmed when they found out he was "the wrong one."

Bryant's pretty brunette wife had related in the absence of the jury at Sumner that a "Negro man" had entered the general store which her husband operates at Money and made indecent proposals to her.

She said that she had run from the store to get a pistol and that the Negro whistled at her as he left.

Circuit Judge Curtis Swango had ruled out Mrs. Bryant's story on the grounds it was irrelevant evidence in the Sumner trial.

Reed and Wright, who have gone to Chicago to live since the trial at Sumner, lolled around the vacant courtroom in the Leflore county courthouse awaiting their call to go before the grand jury.

Neither Seem Afraid

The two, according to reports emanating from Chicago, had fled Mississippi for their safety. Neither appeared afraid in the courthouse here and no special police protection was provided for them.

The progress of the grand jury investigation here in the already-sensational Till case apparently commanded little attention locally and drew no sightseers around the courthouse as the jury deliberated behind closed doors.

Although the grand jury is expected to report around noon Wednesday, court officials indicated that it might be hours before its action on the Till case will be made public.

District Attorney Sanders said that it is the practice in the district not to make public indictments until a return has been made on the capias for the arrest of the indicted person.

The grand jury will report to circuit Judge Arthur Jordan, who will preside over the trial if the two men are indicted.

It's possible for the grand jury to indict under one or both of two kidnaping statutes under Mississippi's code. One law provides a maximum 10-year sentence and the other has a maximum penalty of death.

JURY TO DECIDE ON KIDNAP COUNT

Till Abduction Indictment Against Pair in Balance

By SAM JOHNSON

GREENWOOD, Miss., Nov. 5 (AP)—A grand jury meets Monday under the eyes of the nation as another chapter begins in the famous Till case.

The jurors will decide whether two white men will stand trial on a charge of kidnaping Emmett Louis Till, 14-year-old Negro boy, who disappeared while vacationing in Mississippi.

In Mississippi's most sensational trial six weeks ago at nearby Sumner, a jury took 67 minutes to find the two men innocent of murdering the boy.

Roy Bryant, 24, and his 36-year-old half-brother, J. W. Milam, have been free on $10,000 bond each since the trial, awaiting action of the Leflore county grand jury on the kidnap charge.

Boy Called Martyr

The acquittal of Bryant and Milam brought a flood of condemnation upon Mississippi. Rallies demanding justice in the Till case drew huge crowds in Northern cities.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People labeled Till's death a lynching and called the boy a martyr.

Mississippi's Citizens Councils, groups dedicated to keeping segregation, and newspapers answered in kind.

They labeled the NAACP a Communist-front group. Some urged Attorney General Herbert Brownell to place the group on the list of subversive organizations.

The grand jury session begins one day after the Mississippi branch of the NAACP ends its annual convention in Jackson. The convention included a blast at Mississippi's handling of the Till case.

The acquittal of Bryant and Milam brought "reaction and revulsion . . . of mountainous proportion . . .," declared Clarence Mitchell, head of the NAACP's Washington bureau.

Two Possible Counts

The grand jury meets in a county where Negroes outnumber whites, where race relations are taut and Negro voting virtually has disappeared.

The Leflore county grand jury could indict the two white men under one of two Mississippi kidnap statutes. One provides a death penalty. The other carries a maximum of 10 years in prison.

District Attorney Stanny Sanders said the grand jury probably would consider the case within the first three days of next week. The exact day will be determined by the court docket and presence of witnesses.

National attention will center again on Mose Wright, 64-year-old sharecropper and the state's star witness.

Two white men roused the Negro boy fom his bed in Wright's farm shack at nearby Money about 2:30 a. m. Aug. 28. Wright was the only eyewitness to the abduction who testified in the famous murder trial.

A body identified as Till's was pulled from the muddy Tallahatchie river in adjoining Tallahatchie county three days later. A weight was tied around the body's neck with barbed wire.

Defense attorneys disputed the identification with three witnesses who said the body could not have been Till's because of its advanced decomposition.

Trial jurors said the contradictory identification figured heavily in their acquittal verdict.

Finger Pointed

Wright pointed a knobby finger at Bryant and Milam during the trial and declared, "There they are"—the men who took Emmett away.

Officers testified the two storekeepers admitted taking Till but they claimed they released him unharmed when they found he was not the Negro who made indecent proposals to Mrs. Bryant.

Wright left his farm home after he said a carload of white men came looking for him. He went to Chicago to live with relatives but promised to return for the grand jury hearing.

Willie Reed, 18-year-old farm hand and a state "surprise witness" in the murder trial, will not return for the trial. He also fled to Chicago.

Reed testified he saw Milam with the abducted boy several hours after Bryant and Milam said they released him unharmed. The scene was a plantation run by Milam's brother, Leslie Milam.

try store.

Three days later a body, battered and shot through the head, was pulled from the Tallahatchie River and identified as Till's by his uncle.

The uncle, Moses Wright, and another Negro, farmhand Willie Reed, testified before the Leflore Grand Jury when it took up the case Tuesday.

Brother Pair Is No-Billed In Till Kidnap

GREENWOOD, Miss., Nov. 9 (AP). A Leflore County Grand Jury refused today to indict two white half brothers for the kidnaping of Emmett Till, a Chicago Negro boy slain in the notorious "wolf whistle" case.

"Gentlemen, in the case you are interested in, there was a no bill returned," Circuit Judge Arthur Jordan told reporters at 4:08 p.m. EST after the grand jury submitted its report.

J. W. Milam, 36, and Boy Bryant, 24, the two white men accused of kidnaping Till in Leflore County after they were acquitted of murdering him in neighboring Tallahatchie County, face no further state charges in the case.

Till, 14-year-old visitor from Chicago, was abducted from the home of a relative last Aug. 28 after he allegedly gave Bryant's pretty young wife a "wolf-call" at a coun-

Till Murderers May Be Tried For Kidnapping

GREENWOOD, Miss — Roy Bryant, 24, and his 36-year-old half brother, J W Milam, both of whom were acquitted on charges of murdering Emmitt Till, 14-year-old Chicago boy, will perhaps earn this week whether or not they will stand trial on kidnapping charges of young Till. A Le Flore county grand jury began considering the kidnap indictments against the two white men here Monday.

Sheriff George Smith of Le Flore County has said Bryant and Milam have admitted abducting the boy from the farm house of Mose Wright, Till's aged uncle. Till was taken from his uncle's house on the morning of August 28, and three days later his body was pulled from the Tallahatchie River, brutally beaten and shot through the head.

Till's death, which the NAACP has classified as a lynching, was brought about after he allegedly "wolf whistled" at Bryant's wife.

The murder trial lasted six weeks and attracted world-wide publicity.

The NAACP, as well as newspapers and magazines all over the United States and Europe, have psharply criticized the verdict by an all white jury in Sumner, Miss.

Meanwhile in Lamar, Miss, what previously had been reported as the slaying or lynching of a 12-year-old Negro boy, seems to be the case of accidental death.

The body of Jim L Hudson, 12, was found mutilated and crushed near the home of a white farmer by the boy's grandmother, Mrs Ella Flemmon. However, Medger Evers, an official of the NAACP, has stated that the boy apparently was crushed by a heavy vehicle. The theory has been advanced by Sheriff Sam Coopwood that the boy jumped on a wood truck without the knowlege of the driver.

Earlier reports said Hudson had been brutally murdered.

Till Uncle, Farm Hand in Grand Jury Hearing on Kidnap Charge

Advertiser
Wed. 11-9-55.

GREENWOOD, Miss., Nov. 8 (AP) — A Negro teen-aged farm hand and an elderly Negro sharecropper testified today before the grand jury that will decide whether two white men will stand trial in the Emmett Till kidnaping case.

The two Negroes are expected to be key state witnesses if an indictment is returned.

The Leflore County grand jury may report tomorrow whether Roy Bryant, 24, and his half-brother, John W. Milam, 36, will be indicted for kidnaping. A trial jury at nearby Sumner six weeks ago found both men innocent of slaying Till.

UNCLE CALLED IN

Mose Wright, 64, Till's uncle, ended a weary wait at 2:21 p.m. when County Atty. J. J. Fraiser Jr., called him into the grand jury room.

At the murder trial, Wright said two white men roused the 14-year-old Chicago Negro boy from bed and took him away because he allegedly made off color remarks and wolf-whistled at Bryant's wife.

Wright was in the grand jury room 24 minutes and the jury later recalled him for a brief time.

Willie Reed, 18, farmhand, was called next and spent 19 minutes before the 20-man, all-white grand jury.

SAW BALD MAN

Reed at the murder trial testified he saw a bald man who looked like Milam with Till several hours after Milam and Bryant claimed they released the Till boy unharmed.

Deputy Sheriff John Ed Cothran, who testified in the murder trial that Milam admitted taking the boy from Wright's shack, was recalled before the grand jury after Reed.

Next came Sheriff George Smith, who testified at the trial that Bryant admitted jerking Till out of bed in the early hours of last Aug. 28 and taking him away.

Bryant and Milam are free under $10,000 bond each, awaiting action of the grand jury.

CLAIM FEAR OF DEATH

Wright and Reed went to Chicago after the sensational murder trial. Each said he fled in fear of being killed.

The two Negroes slept occasionally today in court room seats as they waited.

Both said they had no fear of being harmed but were anxious to return to Chicago.

The jury could indict Bryant and Milam under either of two kidnap statutes. One carries a maximum penalty of death in the gas chamber. The other has a maximum sentence of 10 years in the penitentiary.

P. 1

Montgomery Ala.

Leflore, Miss.

Till was abducted from Wright's farm shack in nearby Money last Aug. 28.

With Wright was Willie Reed, 18-year-old farm hand, who also left for Chicago after the famous trial in nearby Sumner six weeks ago when a jury found Bryant and Milam innocent of murdering Till.

Wright, Till's uncle, and Reed arrived in Greenwood last night from Chicago.

They said they have no fear of being harmed in Mississippi but seemed nervous. Wright said he will be happy when he has returned to Chicago.

Is Star Witness.

Wright is the state's star witness. At the murder trial of the two white men, he identified both as the men who came to his farm shack about 2:30 a.m. and took

However, the defense in the murder trial introduced three witnesses, including a doctor and an undertaker, who said the body had been in the water at least eight days, and therefore could not have been Till's.

Jurors said the contradictory identification figured heavily in their verdict of acquittal.

Justice Department refuses to cite kidnap case differences

Afro-American Baltimore, Md.
Sat. 11-12-55
P. 13

WASHINGTON

The U.S. Department of Justice refused Thursday to explain the mystery of the difference between its handling of kidnaping cases in New York and Mississippi.

The NAACP's NYC office had wired Attorney Gener l Herbert Brownell the previous day to ask why the FBI entered the Damman case immediately but "might have resulted in uncovering the evidence which subsequently apparently evaded local officials, thus torpedoing due process while seeming to satisfy same."

* * *

IT WAS REPORTED in New York newspapers that the FBI had entered the search for Stephen Damman, missing in East Meadow, because of suspicion of kidnapping.

Later although the FBI said it had not "actively" entered the case, it was admitted that an FBI abent had been assigned to work with Nassau County police.

The NAACP message noted the 14-year-old Emmett Till "was kidnapped at gun point before several witnesses."

"His body was not discovered until three days later, yet during all that time the FBI did not make a move on persumptiion of kidnapping," the telegram recalled.

* * *

THE NAACP, MR. WILKINS said, "would like to inquire specifically why the FBI entered the Damman case in New York one day after disappearance of the boy and failed to enter the Till case in Mississippi although three days had passed since Till was known to have been kidnapped by armed men."

The association's message also commented that Stephen Damman's father is an Air Force clerk at Mitchell Field, while Emmett Till's mother is an Air Force clerk in Chicago.

Due to Come Up Today

Times-Herald
Tues. 11-8-55

Mississippi Kidnap Case Delayed

GREENWOOD, Miss., Nov. 7 (AP) —The Leflore County grand jury, working through a heavy docket, delayed until tomorrow consideration of kidnap charges against two white men in the famous Till case.

Witnesses scheduled to testify today were told to return tomorrow morning.

P. 1

Dist. Atty. Stanny Sanders said earlier he hoped to finish testimony today in the kidnap charges which grew out of the disappearance of Emmett Louis Till, 14-year-old Chicago Negro boy.

Raleigh N.C.

A 20-man, all-white grand jury began work this morning with the Till case its hottest business.

Until It Reports.

The jury's action on the kidnap charges won't be known until the grand jury makes its report, probably Wednesday, Sanders said.

The jury will decide whether half brothers Roy Bryant and John W. Milam will stand trial on a charge of kidnaping the Negro boy who disappeared while vacationing in Mississippi.

Mose Wright, 64-year-old sharecropper, who fled to Chicago for safety, waited in the Leflore County

Till away.

Reed, a farm hand on a plantation run by Milam's brother, Leslie Milam, testified that he saw Till with Milam several hours after Milam and Bryant claimed they released the Negro boy.

Officers testified that both white men admitted taking Till from Wright's home, but said they found the boy unharmed when they found he was not the one who made off-color remarks and wolf-whistled at Mrs. Bryant.

Milam and Bryant have been free on $10,000 bond each on the kidnaping charge since the trial in adjoining Tallahatchie County took only 67 minutes to find them innocent of murdering Till.

The grand jury could indict the men under one of two Mississippi kidnaping statutes. One carries a maximum penalty of death. The other carries a maximum of 10 years.

Officers pulled a body from the Tallahatchie River three days after the white men took Till. Wright and the boy's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley of Chicago, identified the body as Till.

failed to intervene in the kidnaping and slaying of Emmett Till.

* * *

A JUSTICE DEPARTMENT spokesman admitted he had received "several inquiries" about the NAACP telegram but that he had no comment. Later he said: "We have not received any new information."

The FBI had an agent in East Meadow, L.I., Tuesday, the day after Stephen Damman disappeared. Wednesday, after the NAACP protest, the NYC FBI office said the agent was present to maintain liaison.

It denied that the FBI had "actively" entered the kidnaping case in East Meadow.

* * *

THE NAACP HAD ASKED the FBI to clarify its policy on kidnap cases in an effort to discover why the federal body entered the kidnap case in New York after having asserted that it could not enter the August kidnap case of Emmett Till in Mississippi.

In his telegram to Mr. Brownell, NAACP Executive Secretary Roy Wilkins pointed out that FBI action in the Till kidnapping

8756

Eyes of Nation Focussed On Monday Trial in Miss.

Courier P.1 Pittsburgh Pa. Dat 9-17-55

Dixie 'Justice' Is Challenged; Five Lawyers Will Defend Pair

By ROBERT M. RATCLIFFE, National News Editor

SUMNER, Miss.—The State of Mississippi is taking on a judicial air this week as plans are being made for the trial next Monday (Sept. 19) of two half-brothers, Roy Bryant and J. D. Milam, both charged with the world-shocking kidnap-lynching of a 14-year-old Chicago boy, Emmett Till. Courier Dat 9-17-55

Till was vacationing with his uncle, the Rev. Moses Wright, in Money, Miss., when he was snatched from his bed and carted off to a deserted spot where he was bludgeoned, shot and thrown into the Tallahatchie River after a heavy weight had been tied to his neck.

Atty. Gen. J. P. Coleman, Governor-elect of Mississippi, indicated last week-end that a strong effort will be made to punish the guilty parties. He announced that Atty. Robert B. Smith, a former member of the FBI, will assist the state in prosecuting the suspects. P.1

From New York, the NAACP said it is sending a legal observer here for the trial. The two white men will have five lawyers representing them once the trial gets underway.

The men will be tried together unless separate trials are requested. They will be tried for murder first and kidnapping later.

* * *

TILL, REFERRED to by relatives as a "half-crazy" kid, was accused of waving and whistling at Bryant's wife while making a purchase in Bryant's store located in Money.

The Courthouse here will be packed for the trial and special police guards will be on duty to prevent possible demonstrations.

Several state officials have expressed a dislike for the NAACP which has been accused of "meddling." The Citizens Councils, a white organization opposed to NAACP activities and definitely against integration, will have plenty of representatives at the trial.

* * *

MISSISSIPPI MADE a big effort last Thursday to prove to the world that she does not intend staging a mock trial for the half-brothers accused of mutilating and lynching the 14-year-old ex-polio victim.

District Attorney Gerald Chatham, apparently following instructions, sent a wire to Chicago to Till's mother inviting her to come down and testify at the trial of the two white suspects.

Mrs. Mamie Bradley, 33, was promised "any reasonable protection she might feel that she needs." Chatham also informed Mrs. Bradley of "my personal regret and the regret of the state concerning the unfortunate death of your son."

Courier

LEGAL EXPERTS fail to see how Mrs. Bradley's testimony can be of any importance in helping to decide the case since she was in Chicago at the time of the crime, but Chatham said he considered her testimony an important link. P.14

Observers in the tri-state area see this move as a mere gesture to lift some of the shame from Mississippi.

Date of the trial was to have been announced Thursday, but illness prevented Circuit Judge Curtis M. Swango from holding a meeting with defense and state attorneys. Dat 9-17-55

THE HALF-BROTHERS, Bryant and Milam, were indicted late Tuesday last week on kidnap and murder counts. The men declared they are not guilty of either count when they appeared before Judge Swango the same evening and heard the indictments read by the district attorney.

Before entering the courtroom in Sumner, Miss., to plead not guilty they were taken to a Sumner barbershop for shaves and haircuts. They were under armed guard but not handcuffed.

Law officials have made a big exhibition of shifting the two suspects from jail to jail. The prisoners were carried to Sumner from Greenville, Miss. They had been moved there secretly from Leflore County jail at Greenwood, Miss.

* * *

FOLLOWING THE appearance late Tuesday before Judge Swango in Sumner, the two men were moved again to the Tallahatchie County jail in Charleston, Miss., because "the facilities for prisoners at Sumner were inadequate."

One observer was overheard to say that the jail in Sumner wasn't good enough for "special prisoners."

The National Guard was called out to "protect" the prisoners while they were being held in the Greenwood jail. Word had gotten out that Negroes were going to storm the jail and take the two suspects. This rumor was believed spread by members of the Citizens Councils, an all-white organization closely akin to the Ku Klux Klan.

* * *

ON THE same day that the indictments were handed down by the grand jury, the body of the 14-year-old lynch victim was buried in a Chicago cemetery.

A procession of almost one hundred automobiles made the ten-mile trip to the cemetery. Till's mother broke down as the casket was lowered into the earth. "Darling, darling, I hope you'll rest now eternally," she sobbed.

Tuskegee's research department Tuesday listed the crime as a lynching.

TILL LETTERS!
flood Courier office as readers' indignation over tragedy expresses itself—SEE INSIDE.

Full Coverage!

To cover every angle of the infamous Emmett Till murder-lynching-kidnapping case, The Courier has:

A Full Page of Pictures on the Case, Page 1, Section 2.

News Editor Robert M. Ratcliffe in Mississippi with on the spot news.

George F. Brown in Chicago, keeping in touch with the slain boy's mother and family.

Levi Jolley in Washington, D. C., keeping on top of the Justice Department's attitude.

'I Can't Cry Any Tears'

Mom Wants Son's Murder Avenged

Courier P. Pittsburgh Pa. Dat 9-17-55

By GEORGE F. BROWN
(Courier Chicago Editor)

CHICAGO—Mrs. Mamie Bradley, mother of lynch-victim Emmett Till, asked this reporter: "Have you ever sent a loved son on a vacation and had him returned to you in a pine box so horribly battered and water-logged that someone had to tell you that this sickening sight is your son—lynched?

"I had to study my baby's teeth to be sure that he was Bobo. Nobody in the world can tell me that the boy they buried is not my son.

"I know that was Emmett, just as the lynchers know whom they slaughtered. I know that was my boy as well as I know I'm Mamie Bradley."

* * *

ATTRACTIVE, dimpled, 33-year-old Mamie Bradley wants to know what America plans to do about the brutal lynching of her only son, a 14-year-old schoolboy who died by brutal hands at the noontime of his boyhood.

Mamie Bradley also wants to know if anyone is safe from the lyncher's code if he has a dark skin. After all, Emmett Louis Till's father, Louis Till, died in 1945 in the service of his country in Europe after fighting in North Africa and he hoped for a better world for his son. But it was not to be: Young Emmett was shot, garroted, weighted down and flung into the muddy Tallahatchie River near Money, Miss. Was he sacrificed on the altar of white supremacy?

Mamie Bradley is an intelligent, articulate person who wants these questions answered. Nothing will bring her son back, but she does not want any other mother to suffer the heart pain and humiliation that these past two weeks have brought her.

Courier P.14

HER HAZEL eyes glistening bravely, Mrs. Bradley strains to cry. "I can't cry any tears. The tears will come one day, but now I'm too dazed by all this to even think. All I know is that Bobo is gone. Unless such a thing happens to you, you can't understand how a mother feels."

After the news of Emmett's lynching exploded and stunned America, the letters of condolence were sprinkled with vicious letters from race-haters. Some of the letters are too foul to print. "The cowards would not sign their names," Mrs. Bradley said. "And these letters came from Chicago, too."

Like millions of American women, Mrs. Bradley was on vacation and enjoying the opportuni-

y to rest, so she sent her boy to visit his uncle and aunt, Mose and Elizabeth Wright on a farm in Mississippi until school started.

Sat. 9-17-55

Mrs. Bradley herself was born in Webb, Miss., so she thought Emmett would enjoy the vacation from the steaming streets of Chicago. So did Emmett!

And he was having a good time with friends—just like countless other American boys on vacation.

• • •

FATE LED Emmett Louis (Bobo) Till to a grocery store in Money, Miss., to buy bubble gum. Emmett was not subservient, not cowed by Dixie mores, so he said something to the grocer's wife and whistled—just as he had seen people do on television, in movies, in comic books, on the streets.

It was just something he had been conditioned to do. Remember, he was conditioned to his way of life just as the people in Mississippi are conditioned to their feudal ideas.

Emmett Louis Till, 14 years old, was a product of his times and he died for it.

Innocent that he had offended anyone to the extent that murder—compounded of race hatred and fear—would end his short, happy life, Emmett went home to bed.

• • •

THEN THE NIGHTMARE, the nightmare that Negroes have lived with for generations visited Emmett Louis Till. Two arrogant white men brushed aside the pleas of Mose and Elizabeth Wright and took the boy away. He was never seen alive, a whole boy, again. Death must have been merciful when it came to young Emmett.

He had been brutally beaten, shot in the head, weighted down with a 200-pound cotton gin fan and tossed like flotsam into the river. But his body was recovered and the world recoiled in horror. **ANOTHER LYNCHING!**

But this time a 14-year-old boy. This time when the world thought lynching was past. Call it murder, but the thought behind the crime made it a lynching. Nicety of phrase does not minimize the crime: They brought Emmett Louis Till home in a pine box—after twenty man hastily dug a grave in Mississippi and were just about to consign the body to the earth QUIETLY when word from Chicago came in the nick of time: "Send my boy home!"

The return of Emmett Louis Till to Chicago set up a drumfire of indignation, horror and sadness that engulfed the nation. Decent people were shocked and ashamed. Mamie Bradley said: "Keep his body out of the ground from Saturday to Tuesday so they can see what they did to my boy."

• • •

CRAZED WITH GRIEF, Mamie Bradley endured the brittle glare of publicity, of curiosity-seekers and the well-meaning.

She even had to endure the low letters from crackpot race-haters too craven to sign their names.

What bothers Mamie Bradley most is this: After the case has "blown over" and the fanfare is done and people have turned their attention to other violence, will there be another Emmett Louis Till? Will the lynchers escape with token punishment?

Mamie Bradley is still crying inside about the role justice will play.

• • •

WHEN THE EMOTIONALLY shattered woman saw the pitiful remains of her only son, she cried out: "You didn't die for nothing." Did he?

The final bit of irony of the story of Emmett Louis Till: He was brought back in a pine box (his fine features crunched beyond recognition, one hazel eye gouged out, a hole in his skull, his body swollen out of shape from muddy water) on the SAME DAY HE WAS TO HAVE RETURNED TO CHICAGO TO GET READY FOR SCHOOL. Emmett Louis Till's seat was empty when school opened.

WILL AMERICA FORGET WHY?



Waiting in Vain

Lynch victim Emmett Louis Till's dog, Mike, keeps nightly vigil in the boy's room, not knowing that his young master will never play with him any more. — Bozeman Photo.



In Happier Times—The last picture of Mrs. Mamie Bradley and her son, Emmett Louis Till, was taken two days after Christmas in 1954.—Bozeman Photo.

EYES OF WORLD ON NATION:

U.S. can't ignore Mississippi killings

Life-American
Sat. 11-5-55
P3
Baltimore Afro

By LOUIS LAUTIER
(For the NNPA News Service)

WASHINGTON — The Federal Government can no longer cynically ignore murder in Mississippi to keep colored people from voting.

Nor can it longer ignore other forms of violence, threats and intimidation resorted to in that state to compel qualified colored voters to remove their names from voting lists.

If it does, the prestige of the United States will suffer a serious blow all over the world.

• • •

COLORED PEOPLES, who constitute two - thirds of the world's population, have read with disgust and dismay the verdict of a Mississippi jury in the Till case.

They know of the intimidation, threats and violence used to keep colored people away from the polls there.

The United States cannot present itself verbally as the champion of liberty and justice and attack Communist oppression of peoples in the Soviet satellite countries while crimes against people in this country, solely because they are colored, are permitted to go unpunished.

• • •

THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTION and laws have become a dead letter in Mississippi. This state of affairs can no longer be ignored. The United States must take some action now to protect its prestige.

That action must take the form of assuring that equality before the law will prevail and that every qualified person will be permitted to exercise his constitutionally secured right to vote and have that vote counted.

8757

Totalling $400,000

Mrs. Bradley Plans Suits

Courier Sat. 10-22-55

P. 1

By GEORGE F. BROWN

CHICAGO—Atty. William Henry Huff told The Courier this week that he is readying damage suits totaling $400,000, to be filed in the name of Mrs. Mamie Bradley against four persons in Mississippi. The suits are the outgrowth of the lynching of Mrs. Bradley's 14-year-old son, Emmett Till.

Pittsburgh Pa.

Courier

Attorney Huff said the suits will be filed in a U. S. District Court in Mississippi after Roy Bryant and his half-brother, J. W. Milam, stand trial for kidnaping. The two men were acquitted of a charge of murdering Till and are yet to be indicted for kidnaping the boy. Action on the kidnap case is to be considered by a grand jury Nov. 7.

If the grand jury does not indict on the kidnap charge, Attorney Huff said he will file the suits anyway.

There will be four separate suits, each demanding $100,000, against Roy Bryant and his wife, and against J. W. Milam and his brother, Leslie, Huff said.



Atty. Huff

Meanwhile, Mrs. Bradley announced that she is placing her crusade in the hands of the NAACP. From here on out, all requests for her to appear as a speaker at protest rallies will be channeled through the office of Roy Wilkins, NAACP executive secretary.

Mrs. Bradley said she took this step because so much confusion has arisen since she started making personal appearances. Several groups, in various cities have issued publicity that she would appear on similar dates, often without her knowledge.

Mrs. Bradley is no longer under a doctor's care and plans an extensive tour under the auspices of the NAACP.

JEWISH GROUP HITS RESULTS OF TILL CASE

NEW YORK—(INS)—The Jewish Labor Committee tonight branded the decision in the Emmett Till murder case a "grave miscarriage of justice" and demanded "immediate intervention by the Attorney General of the United States."

Adolph Held, national chairman of the organization of a half million Jewish workers in the AFL and CIO, also issued an appeal asking "every American" to "raise his voice against this outrageous decision."

Meanwhile the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People tonight issued a strong statement terming the verdict of the jury in the Emmett Till murder trial "shameful."

NAACP Board Chairman Dr. Channing H. Tobias said the "verdict is as shameful as it is surprising."

He praised Judge Curtis M. Swango's "fair and impartial conduct of the trial" and the "skill and vigor" of prosecutor Gerald Chatham.

Dr. Tobias maintained the jurors "have done their best to discredit our judicial system and to undermine faith in American democracy."

Another spokesman for the organization said the NAACP planned no legal action in the case, but would continue its long-range educational efforts "to build up an environment where this cannot be repeated."

Daily World Thurs. 9-22-55

Jewish Group Hits Results Of Till Case

Advocate Sat. 10-1-55 P1

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Jackson Miss.

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Jewish Women Protest Miss. Lynch-Murder"

Daily World Wed. 9-14-55

NEW YORK—(ANP)—The Emma Lazarus Federation last week announced its support of a plan to "hold monster mass meetings in protest against the murder of the Till boy."

P7

Earl Brown, New York city councilman, submitted the plan for mass meetings all over the country. Victim of the murder was Emmett L. Till, a 14-year-old boy from Chicago who was visiting relatives in Money, Miss.

Atlanta Ga.

His badly beaten body was found in the Tallahatchie river several days after he supposedly insulted a white woman in a grocery store in Money. He was buried in Chicago after thousands of people viewed his remains in Roberts Temple Church of God in Christ Church.

The Jewish women's federation, in a telegram to Brown, offered full cooperation in the development of mass [illegible] pointed out that "Jim crow breeds moral degeneration and becomes a threat to all Americans."

In the telegram, the women urged Councilman Brown to introduce a resolution in the City Council to ask President Eisenhower "to take action on young Till's murder and rampage of racism in Mississippi."

Jews Ask Probe Of Till Case

Defender Sat. 11-12-55 P5

Senators Douglas and Dirksen were this week urged by Rabbi Ahron Opher, president of the Chicago Council of the American Jewish Congress, to institute an immediate Senate investigation into the recent release of information relating to the military service of Emmett Till's father, which is most damaging to the Till family.

Emmett Till was kidnapped and murdered while visiting his great-uncle in Money, Miss.

Rabbi Opher indicated that this hitherto withheld information is being headlined in Southern newspapers and can unduly influence the grand jury that is weighing the kidnapping charges of the two white men involved.

Rabbi Opher observed that the evidence indicates that one of the Senators from Mississippi was instrumental in having the information released by the Army.

In his letter, Rabbi Opher also urged that the Senate make every effort "to insure that as far as the Federal government is concerned, nothing shall hamper a fair and conscientious trial of those charged with the kidnapping of Emmett Till."

27a 1955

MISSISSIPPI

NO U.S. INTERVENTION
THE JUSTICE DEPT. DOES NOT
PLAN TO INTERVENE

8759

Group Asks U.S. to Act in Till Case

United Press

A delegation of about 50 Chicago Negroes yesterday failed to obtain a promise of federal intervention in the Emmett Till murder case after a personal visit to the Justice Department.

Till, a 14-year-old Chicago boy, allegedly was murdered near Sumner, Miss., last summer after he "wolf-whistled" at a white woman. The woman's husband and his half-brother were charged with the murder and acquitted. They still face a kidnaping charge.

The busload of Chicago petitioners, which included seven ministers, was headed by the Rev. C. W. Harding of Victory Baptist Church, and Auditus Savage, editor of the American Negro Magazine.

First the group marched in an orderly manner in front of the White House and attempted unsuccessfully to call on Vice President Richard M. Nixon. Then they proceeded to the Justice Department to see Attorney General Herbert Brownell Jr.

Department officials referred them to Arthur Caldwell, head of the Department's civil rights section. He discussed the Till case with six members of the group.

Later Caldwell told reporters they demanded that the Government assume a role in the case under Federal kidnaping statutes. But he said he told them there was no legal basis for such action.

The spokesman asserted, he said, that if the Federal Government does not change its stand "an even larger delegation of Chicago citizens" will call on the Department soon.

The delegation, which arrived here Sunday night by chartered bus, attempted to see Atty. Gen. Herbert Brownell Jr. They were referred to Arthur Caldwell, chief of the Justice Department's Civil Rights section. Six members of the group conferred with Mr. Caldwell.

Mr. Caldwell said they demanded that the Federal Government intervene in the Till case under kidnaping statutes. But Mr. Caldwell said he told them there was no legal basis under which the Federal Government could act.

He said the spokesmen for the group stated that unless the Federal Government changes its stand "an even larger delegation of Chicago citizens" will call on the department soon.

Till, 14-year-old Chicago Negro, was reportedly slain last summer in Mississippi. Two white men were tried and acquitted on murder charges but still face a possible kidnap indictment.

The Chicago delegation included seven ministers and was headed by Rev. C. W. Harding, pastor of the Victory Baptist Church, and Augustus Savage, editor of the American Negro magazine.

The group earlier marched in front of the White House in an orderly demonstration and made an unsuccessful attempt to call on Vice President Richard M. Nixon.

Mississippi of charges they murdered Till, a 14-year-old Chicago Negro boy.

But Caldwell told the delegation the case reflected no violation of federal law and consequently no grounds for federal intervention.

The Negroes tried to see Vice President Nixon but were unsuccessful. Later, they asked to see Atty. Gen. Brownell and Caldwell offered to speak to them instead.

Before their audience with the Justice Department official, the 50 Negroes had marched through Washington carrying such placards as "Down with the cotton curtain" and "We have waited 336 years for equal rights."

U.S. INTERVENTION ASKED IN TILL CASE

50 Chicago Negroes Call On Justice Department

WASHINGTON, Oct. 24.—(UP)—A group of about 50 Chicago Negroes urged the Justice Department Monday to intervene in the Emmett Till murder case.

NO INTERVENTION PLANNED IN CASE

Justice Department Says Hands Off Till Trial

WASHINGTON, Oct. 25 (AP)—The Justice Department does not plan to intervene in Mississippi's Emmett Louis Till case.

A delegation of Chicago Negroes received that news yesterday from Arthur B. Caldwell, head of the department's civil rights section.

The Negroes, led by Pastor C. W. Harding of Chicago's Victory Baptist Church, protested the "lynching" of Till and demanded federal action "to end racial discrimination in America." Two white men have been acquitted in

27a 1955

MISSISSIPPI

SENATOR THOMAS C. HENNINGS, JR

8760

Hennings To Interview Mrs. Bradley

WASHINGTON. — (ANP) — Senator Thomas C. Hennings Jr., (D., Mo.) announced last week that he would be glad to arrange for a personal interview with Mrs. Mamie Bradley, mother of Emmett Till, the 14-year-old boy who was kidnapped and slain in Mississippi a few months ago.

He said he shared the deep concern of his committee in this and allied problems and pointed out that the issues were forcefully and effectively highlighted during the very first day of committee hearings on Sept. 17 in the testimony of Roy Wilkins of the NAACP.

Hennings stated that this matter does not seem to fall within the scope of the free speech and assembly clauses of the first amendment, on which hearings are scheduled before his committee on Constitutional Rights to begin Nov. 14.

But, he continued, the committee would like to talk with Mrs. Bradley's attorneys to determine whether the case presents denial of rights under the federal constitution and to identify the particular clause involved.

Pointing out that considerable interest has been expressed in having his committee look into the charges of violence and the denial of civil liberties to Negroes in Mississippi, particularly with reference to the Emmett Till case the Missouri senator said that he too shared the sentiments of most true Americans who believe in democracy.

He took the matter up with the Department of Justice more than a month ago he said, and got the following reply from Warren Olney III, Assistant Attorney General:

"Available information concerning this regrettable incident indicates that Till was killed, after being kidnapped, by two or more private individuals. Since the alleged kidnapping involved no crossing of state lines, these alleged crimes would seem to be offenses against Missisippi law only, and not violative of any federal statute. This department, therefore, has no authority to take any action in connection with the matter."

8761

Till Case Causes Loss Of U.S. Prestige Abroad

Call
Fri. 10-28-55

American Jewish Committee Makes Survey in Europe

P. 1

WASHINGTON, D.C. — (NNPA) American prestige abroad was seriously damaged by the Till case that federal legislation is urgently needed to strengthen the powers of the Justice department to deal with civil rights violations, Congressional leaders were told today in a report by the American Jewish Committee.

Made public by Irving M. Engel, AJC president, and former Federal Judge Simon H. Rifkind, executive board chairman, the report featured a survey of public opinion in six countries of Europe and North America to the trial of two men accused of the brutal murder in Mississippi of Emmett Louis Till, a 14-year-old Chicago boy.

Criticism Swift, Violent

European condemnation, the AJC reported, was "swift, violent and universal" and came from liberal and conservative elements rather than from the Communists or Communist-front groups.

Prepared for the AJC's national executive board, which held a two-day session Saturday and Sunday in New York City, copies of the report were sent to the Senate Judiciary committee, of which Senator Harley M. Kilgore, of West Virginia, is chairman, and the House Judiciary committee, of which Representative Emanuel Celler, of New York, is chairman.

The three chief recommendations of the AJS report urge:

1. Strengthening of existing federal law to make attacks against any individual because of his race, color or religion a violation of Federal civil rights statutes.

2. Raising the civil rights section of the Justice department to a division with an assistant attorney general in charge with powers to investigate and prosecute all civil rights offenses.

3. Increasing FBI personnel to the extent necessary to investigate all complaints of violation of civil rights under Federal law and giving them the necessary training and instruction to handle civil rights cases.

Call

Urge Speedy Action

P. 10

Citing the extensive survey of press and opinion leaders conducted by AJS correspondents in France, Belgium, Italy, Switzerland, Germany and Tunisia, the AJC told Congressional leaders:

"Only speedy implementation of these three civil rights recommendations can deal effectively with any recurrence of a Till case, which did such enormous damage to American prestige abroad.

"In some European quarters, the Till case temporarily offset the favorable impact created by the U.S. Supreme Court's desegregation decision and by previous reports of steady U.S. progress in civil rights during the past decade."

AJS correspondents reported that Europe's condemnation of the Till case "came from all sections of public opinion and from all political directions.

Hundreds of Editorials

"These protestations were expressed in hundreds of newspaper editorials, statements by public leaders in every country of Western Europe, and by men in the street. Political leaders, writers, intellectuals and artists, particularly in France, vehemently denounced the Till case," the AJC survey reported.

AJC correspondents said the news of the Mississippi trial was reported prominently and at great length in all daily newspapers of the countries surveyed. They added that the detailed reports were accompanied by dramatic photos of the court's sessions and the trial's principals."

"The comments varied in tone and intensity," the report said, noting that headlines contained such words as "scandalous," "monstrous," and "abominable."

"Some limited their condemnation to the section of the South where the trial took place. Others blamed the entire South for its segregation policies and the atmosphere of racial hatred which could produce such a trial.

Doubt U.S. Sincerity

"Many others, on the basis of the trial and the verdict, raised sharp doubts about the sincerity of the United States in proclaiming itself as a defender of human rights and of oppressed people throughout the world."

The report indicated that the principal damage to the United States was done when "many European commentators used the Till trial as an occasion to point out to the United States that it is in no posiion to teach other nations how to conduct their colonial affairs and their relations with people under their jurisdiction."

"This was stressed particularly by the French," the report said, "in connection with their present difficulties in North Africa. The French feel that the United States Government and American public opinion are critical of, or at least are sympathetic to, the French policies and actions in Morocco and Algeria."

How Europe Reacted To Till Trial

Call
Fri. 10-28-55
P. 2

WASHINGTON, D. C. — (NNPA) — The survey of public opinion in six European and North African countries on the Till case, made by the Paris office of the American Jewish committee and released here Friday, included the following comments:

Kansas City Call

A typical expression of the first reaction in Europe that such a trivial beginning as wolf-whistling at a woman should have such tragic results was [illegible] scription under a [illegible] n the Parisian illu[illegible] weekly, Radar. Under the [illegible] 'Lynched for having admired a white woman," this paper said:

"It is impossible to believe, but, alas, like many other exceptional crimes, this one is authentic. At Sumner in the state of Mississippi, a young Negro, Emmett Till, 14 years old, whistled in admiration at the young white woman, Mrs. Bryant.

Call

In Europe, A Smile

"In Europe, this is a homage which provokes a smile. Here it was the equivalent of a death sentence. The husband of Mrs. Bryant and his half-brother, Milam, kidnapped Emmett and after ignoble tortures threw him into the river.

"The 12 jurors, all white, acquitted them. This shows that racial prejudice is still very strong in the U. S., primarily in the South. To such a point that in the course of the proceedings, Negro journalists were not permitted to sit near the white ones, while the accused joked with the audience.

"This verdict of letting loose two assassins can be explained but not justified by the atmosphere of racial hatred against Negroes which prevails in the entire South of the United States."

P. 10

Another Parisian weekly, "Aux Ecoutes," summed up the trial and its background in even stronger terms:

"Never was there a more abominable travesty of the truth. The assassins presented themselves with weapons to the house from which the child was kidnapped. This violent act is recognized, for after being acquitted they will, it seems, be prosecuted for kidnapping.

Recognized By Mother

"The mother of the child formally recognized her son. The odious personality whom the child admired by whistling, a sign of admiration in the United States, has invented words which he is supposed to have said, although at the beginning she only said that he whistled.

"Imagine a Negro who permits himself to admire a white woman and what a woman. A cruel shrew who calls two men to take revenge for the outrage, accepts the massacre and accompanies her two miserable men who kidnap the child.

"And this jury, which in spite of overwhelming proof acquits the two monsters, proving thereby that it consisted of men who are worthless scum than the accused. And that judge who permits that the two criminals hold on their knees two children who are being taught to hate the Negroes.

No Wave Of Indignation

"And this press which relegates Negro journalists to a place from where they cannot see anything. And this country where no wave of indignation emerged after the acquittal."

The most prominent Parisian afternoon paper characterized the trial more moderately (Le Monde):

"[illegible] was technically weak. Owing to the lack of material means and handicapped at the beginning by a solidarity of whites, the prosecution did not present sufficient objective conclusions to bring about a condemnation.

"What is much more serious is the sloppiness and the speed with which the defendants were judged and acquitted without the police having pushed the interrogations far enough.

"What was ignoble was the impudence of the defense, which in its desire to prove that the case was produced in order to defile the customs of the South, doubted the testimony of the young mother of Till . . . The white order continues to reign in Mississippi."

Blame Entire South

The news about the verdict was featured by the entire press and the most frequent words in the headlines were "Scandalous," "Monstrous" and "Abominable."

The comments varied in tone and intensity. Some limited their condemnation to the section of the South where the trial took place; others blamed the entire South for its segregation policies and the atmosphere of racial hatred which could produce such a trial; many others, on the basis of the trial and the verdict, raised sharp doubts about the sincerity of the U. S. in proclaiming itself as the defender of human rights and of oppressed peoples throughout the world.

Some elements in all these comments deserve particular emphasis. One is that the effects of the Supreme court decision on desegregation, which was widely reported and commented upon in Europe after it was rendered, were to a great extent annulled by the events in Mississippi.

Many commentators pointed out that while the Supreme court decision and the policies of the federal administration aim to abolish racial barriers, the facts of life as illustrated by the Mississippi trial tell another and more poignant story.

Said "Le Phare" of Brussels, Belgium, "The southern states have refused to take account of the Supreme court decision and all those who supported it were the object of such pressures that they have changed their attitudes. Employes who applied the decision lost their positions, merchants have seen their clients disappear.

"The decree of the Supreme court was an error because it arose from abstract and ideologi-

al principles incompatible with the social realities of the southern states."

"Franc-Tireur," anti-Communist liberal daily of Paris, said:

"It is disquieting to see that in spite of the American laws condemning anti-Negro racism, the vilest passions can triumph unpunished under cover of the law of a state.

Racist Dogma Of State

"Thus, there is still in certain corners of a great democracy a racist dogma of state, as anti-Semitism as a state dogma under Hitler and the confession trials under Stalin.

"We, who have always rejected with the same horror enslavement and assassination of men, no matter under what pretext, only because of their thoughts, their opinions, their origin or their color, how can we not be shocked by this new evidence of the rage of the whites?

"Racism like Hitlerism is still spreading its poison over the world."

"La Giustizia" of Rome, the daily newspaper of the right-wing Socialist party of Italy, the leader of which, Mr. Saragat, is Vice-Prime Minister, commented:

"It is far from our intention to accuse the entire judiciary system of America, or to make generalized accusations about its people and their deep savagery. However, it is only too clear and evident that as long as such cases call world attention to the painful and at the same time ignoble scar of racism, still so alive in the U. S., we cannot but reserve judgment on North American civilization.

"And so that our judgment may not seem excessively hard, it is opportune to report the opinion of a U. S. magistrate, Judge Channing Tobias, president of the NAACP. 'The unworthy and shameful verdict,' said Dr. Tobias, 'and such actions, bring mortal wounds to American democracy.'

"And we, sincere admirers of many aspects of the 'American way of life,' agree in this case with the U. S. judge."

Obviously, the Communist press used this trial to launch general attacks against the United States and its "hypocrisy" in the attempt to lead the free world in the struggle against oppression.

Said "Das Freies Volk" of Dusseldorf:

"The life of a Negro in Mississippi is not worth a whistle.

"This verdict is again a sign of American democracy. Knowing that in the U. S. every hysterical woman can send a Negro to the electric chair by claiming that she was insulted, it is not surprising that until now no white man was ever sentenced to death in Mississippi because he killed a Negro.

"Dulles and the other roving preachers of American democracy and freedom who babble about the 'American way of life' and who want to make us their satellites have thrown a heavy veil over such freedom and democracy."

"L'Humanite," the Communist daily of Paris, ran a series of articles in the same vein, and did not omit to refer to the McGee and Rosenberg trials. It said:

"The two brutes of Mississippi whose guilt was not questioned by any Yankee newspaper, were acquitted on 'benefit of doubt' but neither the innocent Rosenbergs nor Willie McGee benefitted from such a doubt.

"The outcries of joy by the audience at Sumner when the verdict was announced will join the folklore of American civilization with the idecent manifestations of the madmen who shouted 'Hang Them' at the time of the Rosenberg trial. And this civilization still pretends to be superior. It is this time superior in crime."

REDS LASH TILL RULING

Freeing Of Milam, Bryant Called Lynch Law

MOSCOW, Nov. 15.—(AP)—Under a two-column head "Lynch Law in Sumner," Komsomol Pravda Tuesday attacked the jury's decision finding two men innocent of slaying Emmett Till in Mississippi last August.

The organ of the communist youth organization declared "racists" had been spurred on by the decision. Two white men, Roy Bryant and John W. Milam, were tried for killing Till, a 14-year-old Chicago Negro.

Komsomol Pravda said: "Judicious Americans understand that if a murderer is not punished, then lynching will spread still more. Encouraged by the results of the court trial at Sumner, racists have raised their heads.

"Negro witnesses and those who knew about the details of the lynching ran away and here, too, they were persecuted by representatives of the racist press of the Southern states."

Sumner Acquittal Makes Europe Front Pages

By WILLIAM H. STONEMAN

The Commercial Appeal-Chicago Daily News Foreign Service, Copyright, 1955

PARIS, Sept. 24.—Acquittal of Roy Bryant and John Milam on charges of killing Emmett Till, "wolf-whistling" Negro boy, was front page news throughout Europe Saturday.

In France even those newspapers that are normally friendly toward the United States front paged the news and all papers without exception gave it prominent play.

Le Figaro, which is accused of being an "American paper," was one of those that gave it full front page treatment, outdoing the Communist Humanite which had it on the back page.

A fairly typical report was the one splashed on its front page by L'Aurore, a Christian Communist Center Party organ.

"The two . . . have been acquitted," it reported. "Acquitted to the enthusiastic cries of a racialist public, by a racialist jury.

"We had already been warned that the death penalty wouldn't be demanded. There is to be neither the electric chair nor prison . . . Perhaps even tomorrow these two honest citizens of free America will go back to their usual occupations greeted, respected and the objects of ovations, as though nothing had happened."

1,000 Attend Paris Meeting To Protest Till Case

PARIS (ANP)—More than 1,000 Parisians attended a meeting here this week to protest the acquittal of Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam on charges of murdering 14-year-old Emmett Till.

The International League against Racism presented to the U. S. embassy in Paris a motion protesting freeing of the two Mississippi white men who are still charged with kidnapping.

The group approved by acclamation the protest motion, which said the verdict "consecrates the legality of lynching in the U. S. and insults the conscience of the civilized world."

Josephine Baker famed entertainer, was one of the chairmen of the meeting.

Paris press hits lynching trial verdict

Acquittal stirs denunciations, protest meeting

PARIS, FRANCE—The Paris press, which followed closely the "wolf whistle" Mississippi murder trial, has denounced unequivocally the verdict acquitting Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam.

Prominent front-page headlines and editorials express shocked indignation at the outcome of the trial.

Announcement of a mass protest meeting here last Wednesday further indicates the degree of concern which which the French populace watched the proceedings in Sumner.

* * *

"SHAME OF SUMNER JURY says a banner head on the front of "Figaro," a pro - American journal which calls the verdict "scandalous."

Predicting that the acquittal will stir world-wide indignation, "Figaro" declares that the jury of white sharecroppers did not "err," but merely followed the traditions and customs of the South.

"Figaro" also urged that Americans whohave seen fit to condemn French colonial policy reconsider their criticisms, in the light of the Sumner verdict.

IN "LE MONDE," a front-page column-long editorial states that the shocking thing is that the trial proves that in the U.S. justice has a double standard, de pending on skin color and (political) opinion.

Granting that there may have been reasonable doubt about the guilt of Bryant and Milam, "Le Monde" wonders if they would have gotten the benefit of such doubt if they had been colored.

* * *

"POPULAIRE" describes the verdict as "fascist," and "Franc Tireur" reports the imposition of a curfew against colored citizens in a town in South Carolina.

"Liberation" calls the acquittal "scandalous" and speaks of Bryant and Milam as "lynchers."

In "Aurore," a photo of colored witnesses at the Sumner proceedings carries above it word that two have already fled from Mississippi because they feared reprisals.

PROTESTS FROM French writers and organizations are published in "Combat," which also reports on demonstrations in New York City.

A front-page editorial in "Humanite" declares that the ancestors of the "killers" can rest easy in their graves because the America of today has not betrayed the traditions of their time, and the life of a colored citizen is not worth any more in 1955 than it was then when the ancestors were alive.

Courts in the U.S. "Humanite" charges, give the lie to the anti-colonialist and anti-racist claims of the "American way of life."

The Sumner jurors, this paper charges, have, in effect, advised other white Americans: "If you kill colored people, kill them well."

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PARIS—(ANP)—More than 1,000 Parisians attended a meeting here this week to protest the acquittal of Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam on charges of murdering 14-year-old Emmett Till.

The International League against Racism presented to the U. S. embassy in Paris a motion protesting freeing of the two Mississippi white men who are still charged with kidnapping.

The group approved by acclamation the protest motion, which said the verdict "consecrates the legality of lynching in the U. S. and insults the conscience of the civilized world."

London Press Plays Till Case To 'Hilt'

LONDON — London's daily press "played" the Emmett Till lynch-murder case in the United States (Mississippi) for all it was worth.

Typical of the coverage given the case, in which two white men were on trial for the lynch-murder of the 14-year-old Chicago youth, are the following two stories (pictures, too) selected from the Daily Sketch:

In one story, headed "Uncle Mose Tells of Caller With a Gun," the sketch said:

"A 64-year-old colored man pointed in a hushed court yesterday to two white men in the dock and whispered, 'That's them.'

* * *

"MOSE WRIGHT, the colored man, said he recognized the two men who took away his 14-year-old nephew because they said the boy gave a wolf whistle to the wife of one of them.

"Emmett Till, on a visit to Sumner, Miss. from Chicago, was alleged to have been beaten to death by the two. His weighted body was found later in a river.

"Moses Wright was the first prosecution witness at the Sumner murder trial of white half brothers J. Milam and Roy Bryant.

" 'Uncle Mose,' asked the prosecutor, 'what time did you go to bed on the night of Aug. 25?' He said it was about 1 a.m. An hour later there was a knock at the door.

"Mose said a man called, 'Preacher, Preacher, this is Mr. Bryant and I want to talk to you and the boy.'

"Milam was at the door with a pistol in his hand.

"Mose pointed at the men before him and said Milam and Bryant were the two who made the visit.

* * *

"MILAM TOLD HIM 'I want the boy that did that talk at Money (the place where the whistling incident took place.)

"Mose said Emmett Till arose and dressed. Mose's wife was aroused by the noise but Milam told her to 'get back in that bed and I want to hear them springs.' She quietly returned to bed.

"Milam and Bryant took Till to a car and drove away in the direction of Money.

"The trial was adjourned."

* * *

THE OTHER STORY, headed, "Mother Told Chicago Boy to Be Humble With Whites," along with a photo of Mrs. Mamie Bradley and Mr. Wright seated in the courtroom in Mississippi, said:

"A dead colored boy's mother said yesterday she told him, when he was going South on a holiday: 'Humble yourself before the white southerners.'

" 'I also told him to say 'Yes, sir' and 'No, mam' at all times and if an incident ever arose to make it necessary for him to get on his knees and beg forgiveness, he should do so,' Mrs. Mamie Bradley told a hushed court at Sumner, Miss.

* * *

"TWO HALF brothers, Roy Bryant and John Milam, are accused of murdering the boy, 14-year-old Emmett Till, because they said he gave a wolf whistle after Bryant's pretty wife.

"Mrs. Bradley, of Chicago, was handed a photograph of Emmett, taken after his weighted and mutilated body was found in a river.

" 'Is that a picture of your son?' she was asked.

"She studied the face with the bullet hole in the temple. 'Yes, that's my boy,' she whispered.

* * *

"MRS. BRADLEY said a ring found on the body belonged to the boy's father, her first husband.

"Emmett was wearing it when he left Chicago on Aug. 20 for a visit to his uncle, Mose Wright, at Money, Miss.

"Willie Reed, an 18 - year - old colored farmhand, told the court he saw a boy resembling Emmett Till being carried to a barn. 'I heard hollering coming from the barn.'

"Reed, obviously upset, spoke in a voice that was barely audible.

"Reed said that at 6 o'clock in the morning he saw a green lorry occupied by 'three or four white men and three colored persons.'

"One of the colored men in the back of the truck 'looked like the murdered boy,' Reed said."

DONATIONS
CIO - $500

8763

Aroused by Till case, CIO union gives $500

Pro-American
Baltimore Md.

NEW YORK — The international officers of the Transport Workers Union of America, CIO, this week presented a check for $500 to the NAACP Legal Defense Fund to protect the victims of the Emmett L. Till case. Edward R. Dudley accepted the check for the NAACP.

This contribution is the first implementation of a strong resolution passed by TU's International Executive Council which met in New York recently. The union's top officers aid:

"The lynch murder of 14-year-old Emmett Louis Till in Mississippi climaxed a series of atrocities in the state, including within the past six months the murder of the Rev. George W. Lee of Biloxi and Lamar Smith of Brookhaven, Miss., because of their efforts to defend the rights of colored citizens to vote.

"THERE NOW exists in the state of Mississippi an organized campaign of terror and intimidation against colored citizens who would exercise their full rights as Americans.

"The acquittal of the murderers of Emmett Louis Till in LaFlore County, Miss., is a disgusting betrayal of law and order and the due process of law guaranteed in the American Constitution."

TWU's Executive council resolved: "We urge full support to the fight now being carried on in Mississippi by the NAACP for the rights of all citizens.

"The Department of Justice and the National Administration must use the offices of government to the end that law and order will be restored in Mississippi and that the Constitutional rights of all citizens will be safeguarded."

Donate $10,000 at Till rally

Pro-American
Baltimore, Md.

TILL RALLY

LOS ANGELES — (ANP)— Some 5,000 persons jammed Second Baptist Church and an equal number stood outside in a meeting protesting the lynch-murder of Emmett Till. They donated $10,000 to the fight.

The meeting was punctuated by occasional screams from elderly women as Dr. T.R.M. Howard of Mississippi related facts and details about what he termed the "cruel, desparate and deadly" treatment of colored people in his home state.

Said Dr. Howard: "How many of you within my sight and th sound of my voice are enjoying the luxury of Cadillacs, safe, comfortable homes, and the privilege too vote, while thousands of your brothers in blood live in constant fear of their lives?"

It was Dr. Howard's dramatic recital of the horror of the Till murder, as told him by as eyewitness, that caused many of the women present to break into open weeping.

Reuther Raps Till Verdict, Pledges Aid

Defender
10-15-55

The recent lynching of Emmett Till and the acquittal of the two men accused of his murder, continued this week, to draw protests from leaders throughout the country.

Walter P. Reuther, president of the Congress of Industrial Organizations, and the United Auto Workers, CIO termed the trial a "mockery of the judicial process" and pledged to help correct what he called a "gross miscarriage of justice."

Chicago Ill.

In a statement issued to the DEFENDER, Reuther said:

"The lynch slaying of 14-year-old Emmett Louis Till in Mississippi was a shocking instance of race prejudice and naked lawlessness.

MOCKERY

"The trial which resulted in the acquittal of the men charged as his murderers makes a mockery of civil liberties and the judicial process.

"America can't stand before the bar of world opinion as a symbol of the fight of free men against communist tyranny and at the same time condone this kind of violence of civil liberties and civilized social relationships.

"The handling of this trial and the verdict, in view of the evidence is a threat to the democratic rights of all Americans.

"The CIO and the UAW-CIO shall do everything in their power to protest and correct this gross miscarriage of justice."

8764

Mother arrives with her pastor

Afro American
Sat. 9-24-55
Baltimore, Md.

Sheriff bars reporters from using courtroom press table

'Whistle-stop' town smarting under the nation's criticism

By JAMES L. HICKS

SUMNER, Miss.—The eyes of the nation were focused on this tiny little Mississippi town of 700 people, Monday, as it took up the task of trying to prove to the world that justice in Mississippi is color blind and that the better people of the state frown on murder, even when the victim is a colored person.

Mrs. Mamie Bradley of Chicago, mother of the victim in this case, arrived here Monday accompanied by her pastor, Bishop Isiah Roberts of Roberts Temple Church, Chicago.

The better people of the town, as I talked with them Friday, insisted that justice is color blind in Mississippi and that the outcome of the trial of two white men for the murder of 14-year-old Emmett L. Till, will prove that what they say is right.

But as the trial opened the nation was looking at the many cases of injustice which Mississippi has already perpetrated against colored people—and the nation was laying the odds on the belief that Sumner couldn't prove what it was saying.

* * *

I FOUND THE PEOPLE of the town very much aware of this Friday as I drove in here at high noon.

I went straight to the offices of the Sumner Sentinel when I hit town and when I told Editor W. M. Simpson Jr. that I represented the National Newspaper Publishers Association, which includes an Atlanta daily paper, he said:

"Good! You are from the South and you can do this county a lot of good by explaining in your articles just how things are."

Mr. Simpson then proceeded to call my attention to the fact that the city of Sumner and Tallahatchie County are only involved in the Till murder case because the body was found in Tallahatchie County and Sumner is the county seat.

* * *

POINTING OUT that the incident involving the white woman, over which Till was murdered, happened in adjoining Leflore County, Mr. Simpson deplored the fact that the nation's press has seen fit to condemn Tallahatchie County.

"This county had nothing to do with it," he said. "The body was found in this county, we have arrested the suspects, indicted them and brought them to trial. What more can we do until the trial is held?"

He said he did not think the newspapers had been fair to the people of his county.

He then proceeded to tell me that race relations in the county were good, but that outside pressures had brought about quite a bit of tension in the town.

* * *

MR. SIMPSON SAID some of the letters received by Sheriff H. C. Strider have been particularly mean and insulting and that he feels the sheriff, whom he said has been trying to do a good job, has had "above all he san stand."

After talking with Mr. Simpson I took a walk around the town of Sumner.

Sumner is a one-horse, whistle-stop town built around a town square. The center of the square is occupied entirely by the two-story courthouse in which the trial is being held.

The courthouse is of White Tapestry brick, with two mammoth oak trees in its yard and a huge belfry crowning its top.

Built in 1902, the most conspicious thing about it is a huge marble statue of a confederate soldier on its lawn which was erected in 1913 by the Daughters of the Confederacy.

* * *

THE TRIAL is being held on the second floor of this building. The room will not seat 200 persons and 125 veniremen were seated in it on the first day, from which an all-white jury was selected.

In addition, a regular jury panel of 48 persons will be on hand, so it appears there will be little room in the courthouse for anyone else.

A press table, seating 20 reporters, has been set up in the trial room, but no one here feels this will be adequate and Editor Simpson is worried particularly about the colored press.

Stressing to me that the Sheriff is in charge of press arrangements, Mr. Simpson said it might be that colored reporters and, indeed, daily papers might have to select one reporter as a "pool" correspondent to sit in on the trial and brief other reporters from day to day.

* * *

I FOUND an atmosphere among colored people of Sumner which I was not able "to read." I cannot call it fear because the way they walk around town gives no indication that they are afraid.

But when you mention the trial to them they speak of it in hushed and whispered tones and cast furtive glances about them as they speak.

It's cotton picking time down here and most of the colored people are in the fields picking cotton. But many were in town Friday and many of them I talked with did not even know when the trial was to begin.

Colored people outnumber whites two to one in the county, but no one was able to give me a figure on the number living in Sumner.

From the colored homes I saw and the people I saw on the streets, I would guess that the town is about 60 per cent white and 40 per cent colored. There are no doctors or lawyers among the colored residents.

While the whites here seem to feel that justice will be done, their opinion was not shared by experienced colored leaders outside the community.

Most vocal critic of the trial was Dr. T. Howard, husky NAACP leader of Mound Bayou, about 34 miles distant.

* * *

DR. HOWARD told the AFRO Friday "This trial will demonstrate to the nation just what Mississippi justice means to a colored man.

"I think men who will sit on the jury basically think the same as the men who committed the crime, and I'm willing to bet that no matter what the jury finds, neither man will get over ten years if he gets that much." (Note; the law under which the two men are being tried calls for a penalty of death or life imprisonment if found guilty.)

Dr. Howard said he feels the punishment will be just about what it always has been for white people who kill colored people.

He said, in a recent survey which he caused to be made, he had found that white people in Mississippi get longer terms in jail for killing a deer out of season than they do for killing a colored man in the 18 Delta Counties.

But so long as the Federal Government stands by, Mississippi will continue to kill colored people, Dr. Howard said.

* * *

THE AFRO LEARNED that Mrs. Bradley, mother of the slain youth, is the guest of Dr. Howard while she's here to testify in the trial. She arrived in Clarksdale with her pastor Monday, then came on here. Clarksdale is 14 miles from Sumner.

Reporters segregated

SUMNER, Miss.—Sheriff H. C. Strider ruled Friday that colored reporters would not be permitted to sit at the press table during Mrs. Emmett Till trial.

The Sheriff's office told this reporter, who was the first colored reporter to arrive at the trial scene, that colored newsmen would have to sit in the section reserved for colored spectators.

It is understood that this section contains less than 10 seats and this writer knows of at least 7 colored reporters en route here. The white press table will seat 20 reporters.—HICKS.

Most people here expect the trial to last no longer than a week.

Dr. Howard feels that the prosecution will fail to prove that the boy was killed in Tallahatchie County and thereby provide a loophole for the defense which can then claim the county has no jurisdiction in the case.

* * *

SUMNER WAS a picture of perfect calm, Sunday morning, as it awaited the beginning of the Till trial, Monday.

But it was difficult for an outsider to figure whether it was a genuine calm—or the calm before the storm.

This reporter's guess is that the calm is genuine. The residents of this county simply have refused to get excited over the trial.

They laugh about all the reporters rushing into their city and they ask, as they laugh, 'what do you expect?"

* * *

THE HIDDEN factor in the whole situation is the acts of irresponsible persons of both races.

Everyone here agrees that one irresponsible act could lead to just about anything but thus far there has not even been a hint of irresponsibility.

Sunday at 2 p.m., both white and colored people in the town attended the funeral of a colored man, Kid Townsler, who died Friday.

Whites of the city raised money for the Townsler widow, whom the editor of the local newspaper called "one of the best known citizens of the town."

The funeral was preached by the Rev. W. M. Smith of Memphis.

From a race relations standpoint the attendance of whites at the funeral went far to lessen any tensions.

Out-of-town reporters wisecracked that their presence was simply a public relations stunt; but the local editor insisted that Townsler was well loved by all.

One white reporter's crack to this was: "He sure picked a convenient time to die."

Chronology of events

CHICAGO—The nation was shocked, early this month, over the lynching of Emmett Till, 14-year-old Chicago boy, in Mississippi, for whistling at a young white woman. Questions were raised. Why was he in Mississippi? When did he go there? How did the lynching occur? Who are accused? What is being done about it?

Herewith is the chronology of events in the Till tragedy:

1. Emmett left Chicago Aug. 20, to spend a two-week vacation with his uncle and aunt in Money, Miss.
2. He arrived in Money on Sunday, Aug. 21.
3. He was involved in the whistling incident, Wednesday, Aug. 24.
4. Was kidnapped at 2 a.m., Sunday, Aug. 28.
5. His body was found in the river, Wednesday, Aug. 31.
6. Body returned to Chicago, Friday, Sept. 2.
7. Body lay in state from Friday, Sept. 2 to Tuesday, Sept. 6.
8. Funeral at Roberts Temple attracted thousands, Saturday, Sept. 3.
9. Burial held at Burr Oak Cemetery, Tuesday, Sept. 6.
10. Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam, white brothers-in-law, arrested as murder suspects, Monday, Aug. 29.
11. National Guard called out, Tuesday, Aug. 30, because of rumors Chicagoans planned invasion.
12. Suspects indicted on kidnap-murder charges and trial date set, Tuesday, Sept. 6.
13. Mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley, decides to testify at trial, Thursday, Sept. 15.
14. Selection of trial jury begun, Monday, Sept. 19.



AT LYNCH TRIAL — Mrs. Mamie Bradley, mother of 14-year-old Emmett Louis Till of Chicago, who was lynched in Mississippi, was among those scheduled to testify in the trial of the two white men accused in the kidnap-murder at Sumner, Miss., this week.



THIS IS A PHOTO of clean-faced, youthful Emmett Louis Till, 14, of Chicago, before he was kidnaped and murdered while visiting relatives in Money, Miss. Two white men are on trial this week in connection with Till's lynching.

Seeking Action On Lynching

NEW YORK— Thurgood Marshall, head of the NAACP legal department, has assigned lawyers on his staff to gather all the facts in the brutal slaying of 14-year-old Emmett Louis Till in Mississippi and to explore every possible angle for legal action.

"We cannot afford to leave any stone unturned in our effort to secure justice in this case," Mr Marshall said. "But, equally important is our responsibility to do everything humanly possible to prevent a repetition of this gruesome crime."

DEPARTMENT OF RECORDS AND RESEARCH
TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE

8765

Boy's Slaying Is Classified As Lynching

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Sept. 6 (UP) —The death of a 14-year-old Chicago Negro whose accused murderers were indicted by a Mississippi grand jury was listed today as a lynching by the research department of Tuskegee Institute.

Miss Jessie Guzman, director of the Negro college's records and research department, said, "The circumstances surrounding the death of Emmett Till classified his death as a lynching."

A Tallahatchie County grand jury indicted half-brothers J. W. Milam, 36, and Roy Bryant, 30, for the kidnap-murder of Till. The victim was taken from the home of an uncle Aug. 28 at Greenwood, Miss., for "wolf-whistling" at the wife of one of the men.

Miss Guzman said Tuskegee Institute classifies a lynching as any act of murder participated in by at least three persons.

She said evidence in the Till case showed that the wife of one of the defendants was in the automobile when the young Negro was kidnaped from his uncle's home.

River Yields Body Of Negro, 14, After Insult To White Woman

GREENWOOD, Miss., Aug. 31 (AP) —The weighted body of a 14-year-old Negro boy, kidnaped three days ago because he made "ugly remarks" to a white woman, was pulled from the Tallahatchie River today.

Emmitt Louis Till, Chicago boy visiting his uncle at nearby Money, died of a bullet wound above the right ear.

White Men Charged

Sheriff George Smith of Leflore County said two white men already charged with kidnaping, would be charged with murder. They are Roy Bryant, Money storekeeper, and his half-brother, J. W. Milam of Glendora.

Sheriff Smith said Bryant admitted taking the boy from his uncle's home but said Till was released unharmed.

Till's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley of Chicago, sobbed:

"Someone is going to pay for this. The entire State of Mississippi is going to pay for this.

"I can't think; I just can't think. I'm frozen.

"He didn't do anything to deserve that."

The National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People said Till's death looks like a lynching and demanded vigorous prosecution.

Till was visiting his uncle, tenant farmer Mose Wright, when he was kidnaped Sunday morning. A deputy sheriff said Till "must have been killed Sunday, shortly after the kidnaping."

Till was buried this afternoon at Money. His body was in "such bad shape it couldn't be shipped" to Chicago for burial, a funeral home attendant said.

The youth allegedly made "ugly remarks" to Mrs. Bryant, the storekeeper's wife, last week. He was kidnaped early Sunday.

A teen-agd boy, fishing in the Tallahatchie River spotted Till's body caught in a drift. His feet and legs stuck above the water.

Sheriff H.C. Strider of Tallahatchie County said, "We went down and found the body hung in a drift. We kept working around and finally released it and pulled it to the bank.

"We found a bullet hole one inch above his right ear. The left side of his face had been cut up or beat up—plumb into the skull."

The body was found in Tallahatchie County. The kidnaping happened in adjoining Leflore County.

FBI Studying Case

The site was on Pecan Point of the river, about 12 miles north of Money and 25 miles north of Greenwood.

The FBI in Washington said it was keeping in contact with Sheriff Smith but had not taken part in the case since there was no showing of a federal law violation.

The FBI could enter the case if there were evidence of violation of civil rights laws or if the kidnaping involved crossing a state line.

Murder and kidnaping carry a maximum penalty of death in Mississippi's gas chamber.

Till went to Bryant's Store Saturday night with several other Negro youths. He entered the store and allegedly made some obscene remark to Mrs. Bryant. Officials said they do not know what the remark was.

Another Negro boy entered the store and brought out Till.

Early Sunday, two white men and a woman drove to the Wright home and asked for the "boy from Chicago." The men entered the house and returned with Till. The woman remained in the automobile.

Wright asked where they were taking his nephew. "Nowhere if he's not the right one," one of the men answered. They took Till to the car and asked the woman if Till were the right boy. She said he was and the men placed him in the car and they drove away.

Sheriff Smith said he thought earlier three men were involved but now is satisfied there were only two. He is continuing his search for the woman but said his chances seem slim since Wright did not see her.

'Wolf Whistle' Case Ended

Herald
Thurs. 11-10-55

Jury Frees Pair In Till Kidnaping

Miami, Fla.

By Herald Wire Services

GREENWOOD, Miss. — A Leflore county grand jury Wednesday refused to indict two White half-brothers for the kidnaping of Emmett Till, a Chicago Negro boy slain in the notorious "wolf whistle" case.

"Gentlemen, in the case you are interested in, there was a no bill returned," Circuit Judge Arthur Jordan told reporters after the grand jury submitted its report.

P. 1

In New York, Executive Secretary Roy Wilkins, of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said the jury's action "comes as no surprise to anyone acquainted with the administration of justice in Mississippi."

He added that the freeing of the two men demonstrates "anew the impossibility of securing justice in Mississippi in any case in which a Negro is the victim of a White man's wrath and violence."

J. W. Milam, 36, and Roy Bryant, 24, the two White men accused of kidnaping Till in Leflore county after they were acquitted of murdering him in neighboring Tallahatchie county, face no further state charges in the case.

Till, 14-year-old visitor from Chicago, was abducted from the home of a relative last Aug. 28 after he allegedly gave Bryant's young wife a "wolf-call" at a country store.

Three days later a body, battered and shot through the head and weighted with a cotton gin fan, was pulled from the Tallahatchie river and identified as Till's by his uncle.

The uncle, Moss Wright, and another Negro, farmhand Willie Reed, testified before the Leflore grand jury when it took up the case Tuesday. They were dismissed after giving testimony late Tuesday.

Bryant and Milam were acquitted of murder and jurymen later said the defense had established doubt as to whether the body taken from the river was Till's.

The defendants had admitted after their arrest they took the boy from his uncle's house but said they released him when they found he was not the Negro who had insulted Mrs. Bryant.

Negroes May Sit on Jury In Till Case

World Telegram
Mon. 11-7-55

By the Associated Press.

GREENWOOD, Miss., Nov. 7.—District Attorney Stanny Sanders said Negroes might be on the panel from which a grand jury was to be drawn today in the Emmett Till kidnap case.

P. 5

"We've had them before . . . there may be some on there this time," Mr. Sanders told reporters last night.

New York

Previous Trial

A 20-member grand jury chosen from the panel will decide whether white half-brothers Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam will stand trial for kidnaping Emmett, a 14-year-old Chicago boy who disappeared while vacationing in Mississippi.

An all-white Criminal Court jury in neighboring Tallahatchie County found Bryant and Milam innocent of murdering young Till. Both are free in $10,000 bail in the kidnap charge.

The Tallahatchie County jury decided there was "reasonable doubt" about identification of the battered, bullet-pierced body pulled from the Tallahatchie River Aug. 31. Mrs. Mamie Bradley, young Till's mother, said the body was her son. Several defense witnesses, however, testified the body had been in the water too long to be his.

Coming Back?

Mr. Sanders said most of the local witnesses who testified for the state in the murder trial would be summoned before the grand jury, including Mose Wright, the boy's uncle, and Willie Reed, an 18-year-old Negro farm hand who worked for Milam's brother. Both have since left the state to live in Chicago.

"Our information is that they will be here," Mr. Sanders said.

Free Two of Kidnaping in Till Slaying

Daily Tribune
Thurs. 11-10-55

Greenwood, Miss., Nov. 9 [Special]—The Leflore county grand jury today declined to indict two white men who had been charged with kidnaping Emmett Till, 14, Chicago Negro slain near here two months ago.

Chicago, Ill.

Circuit Judge Arthur Jordan announced the action of the grand jury, which had been in session since Monday and had heard numerous witnesses in the case.

The grand jury's decision freed Roy Bryant, 24, and his half brother, J. W. Milam, 36, of all charges in the disappearance of Till. They were acquitted in a jury trial at nearby Sumner six weeks ago of charges of murdering the boy.

Whistled at Wife

Bryant and Milam had been free under $10,000 bond each since their murder trial while awaiting disposition of the kidnaping charges.

The case, which had nationwide repercussions, stemmed from the death of the Chicago Negro while on a visit at the home of relatives in Mississippi. His killing, it was alleged, was motivated by his remarks and wolf whistles at Bryant's young wife in their store at Money.

Wright, Reed Testify

Till's uncle, Mose Wright, 64, and Willie Reed, 18, a farmhand, were principal witnesses before the Leflore county grand jury. They had fled to Chicago for safety after testifying at the murder trial, but returned to appear before the grand jury.

Wright identified Bryant and Milam as the two men who roused young Till from bed about 2:30 a. m. on Aug. 28 in Wright's home and took him away after announcing they wanted "the boy who did the talking at Money."

Reed testified he saw Milam with Till at a plantation operated by Milam's brother.

Officers testified at the trial that the two white men admitted taking Till from Wright's home but insisted they freed him unharmed when they discovered he was not the Negro they wanted.

Grand Jury in Mississippi Studies Till Case

Des Moines, Iowa

Greenwood, Miss.—A grand jury began work Monday with a Till kidnaping case high on its list of business.

Mon. 11-14-55

No Negroes were picked on the 20-man Leflore County grand jury.

The 20 will decide whether half-brothers Roy Bryant and John W. Milam, will stand trial on charges of kidnaping Emmett Louis Till, 14-year-old Chicago, Ill., Negro boy who disappeared while vacationing in Mississippi.

Mose Wright, Till's 64-year-old uncle, and Willie Reed, 18, waited Monday in the Leflore County sheriff's office to testify before the grand jury.

Wright and Reed, former Mississippians arrived here Sunday night from Chicago, where they sought safety after testifying in the famous trial at nearby Sumner where an all-white jury found Bryant and Milam innocent of murdering Till last August.

The sheriff of Leflore County and a deputy testified at the murder trial that Bryant and Milam admitted taking the Till boy from Wright's cabin, but said they released him when he turned out to be the wrong one.

2 in Till Slaying Face Grand Jury

Herald Tribune
New York City

GREENWOOD, Miss., Nov. 6 (U.P.)—Kidnaping indictments will be sought tomorrow against the two men recently acquitted of the "wolf whistle" slaying of Emmett Till.

P. 3

The Leflore County grand jury will consider state charges that store-owner Roy Bryant, twenty-nine, and his half-brother, J. W. Milam, thirty-six abducted the stammering fourteen-year-old Chicago Negro from the home of a relative he was visiting Aug. 28.

If indicted, Bryant and Milam, who have been free on bond since the spectacular murder trial Sept. 23, will face their new trial later this month, possibly Nov. 28, though the defense might ask for a delay until a later court term. The grand jury is expected to act on the indictments tomorrow or Tuesday.

2 Free in Till Kidnaping; Case Declared Closed

Evening Star
Thurs. 11-11-55

GREENWOOD, Miss., Nov. 10 (AP).—Two white men today were free of all charges in the celebrated case of Emmett Till, the 14-year-old Chicago Negro boy who disappeared while vacationing on his uncle's farm in Mississippi.

P 38-A

A Le Flore County grand jury yesterday declined to indict Roy Bryant, 24, and J. W. Milam, 36, half-brothers, on charges of kidnaping Till from the cabin of his sharecropper uncle, Mose Wright.

Washington
D.C.

"That's the end of the case as far as this county is concerned," said District Attorney Stanny Sanders, after the grand jury decision was announced.

Acquitted of Slaying

Less than a month ago, a trial jury in a neighboring county found the two half-brtohers not guilty of murdering Till on grounds there was reasonable doubt about identification of a batteerd body pulled from the Tallahatchie River.

"The question now arises," Kay Williams, executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said in a statement in New York yesterday, "since Mississippi jurors have determined that Milam and Bryant did not kidnap and murder young Till, who did commit the crimes?"

Mr. Wilkins said the grand jury action, which canceled $10,000 bonds posted by the two men, "comes as no surprise to any one acquainted with the administration of justice in Mississippi."

Till's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley of Chicago, commented, "Just about everything has run out on me now. I don't know what to say. I don't see how they could fail to indict those men."

She said she was thinking of filing a civil suit, but had no money and further action would be up to the NAACP. Mrs. Bradley was in a recent tiff with the Negro organization, which dropped her from a proposed fund-raising tour of 11 Western cities for demanding a $5,000 fee or one-third of the proceeds, plus expenses.

Identified Body

At the murder trial, she identified the body as her son. Defense witnesses, including a doctor and an undertaker, disputed the identification, contending the body was in the water too long to be Till.

The all-white, 20-man grand jury called four men who testified for the State in the murder trial. They were Till's uncle, Mr. Wright; farm hand Willie Reed, a Negro who worked on a plantation owned by Mr. Milam's brother, Leslie; Sheriff George Smith and Deputy John Ed Cothran.

Mr. Wright and young Reed moved to Chicago after the trial, saying they feared for their lives in Mississippi.

Mr. Wright told the murder trial jury that two men, one addressed as Mr. Bryant, the other bald-headed like Mr. Milam, came to his cabin before dawn August 28 and took Till from his bed. He said they accused the boy of insulting Mr. Bryant's wife in the country store Mr. Bryant operates at Money, Miss.

Mrs. Bryant Testifies

In testimony which was withheld from the jury, Mrs. Bryant told how a Negro put his hands on her waist, asked for a date and added: "I've been with white women before." She neither identified him by name nor indicated whether he was a man or a boy.

The sheriff and his deputy told the court that Mr. Bryant and Mr. Milam admitted taking the boy, but said they released him when he turned out to be the wrong one.

Young Reed, in halting, stammering testimony, attempted to place Mr. Milam with Till several hours after the boy was seized.

At nearby Webb, Miss., Mr. Milam said he was "happy it's all over." Mr. Bryant could not be reached for comment.

ant, 24, and J. W. Milam, 36, on a charge of kidnaping the 14-year-old Chicago boy they already had been acquitted of murdering.

Miami Fla.

Leflore county authorities could ask the grand jury to indict Bryant and Milam, but Dist. Atty. Stanny Sanders said, "As far as I know, the case is closed."

The men admitted kidnaping the boy at gunpoint, because they thought he was "the one" who insulted Bryant's wife with an indecent proposal and a "wolf whistle." They said they freed Till unharmed after deciding he was not "the one."

However, widespread protests over the acquittals of Bryant and Milam after a murder trial in adjoining county were echoed in first reactions to news of the grand jury's "no bill."

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which had made the "wolf whistle case" a cause celebre of its campaign against alleged injustice toward Negroes in Mississippi, said the "action came as no surprise."

Roy Wilkins, NAACP executive secretary, said in New York the grand jury's refusal to indict confessed kidnapers was no surprise "to anyone acquainted with the administration of justice in Mississippi."

The Greenwood Morning Star defended the grand jurors as "men who know justice and are capable of making the right decision."

"Till attempted to molest Mrs. Bryant, grabbed her and made indecent proposals," Editor Virgol Adams wrote. "Where is there a husband worthy of the name who would not protect his wife . . .?

"Had Bryant been present and slain Till on the spot there would not be a grand jury in the South who would have indicted him, and not many in the nation."

Refuse To Indict Till Kidnappers

Weekly Worker
New Orleans, La.
Jan. 13 12-53

Greenwood, Miss. (Special).—The Leflore County grand jury Tuesday afternoon wrote what appeared to be the last chapter in the sordid and sensational Emmett Till case by refusing to return a kidnap indictment against two white half brothers despite the fact they had previously admitted kidnapping the Chicago youth.

The action by the grand jury did not come as a surprise to many outside observers. Freed of any guilt in the abduction of the 14-year-old lad who was in Mississippi visiting his great-uncle were J. W. Milam and Roy Bryant.

Appearing as witnesses before the grand jury were two key witnesses—Mose Wright and Willie Reed—who also took the stand during the trial at Sumner six weeks ago.

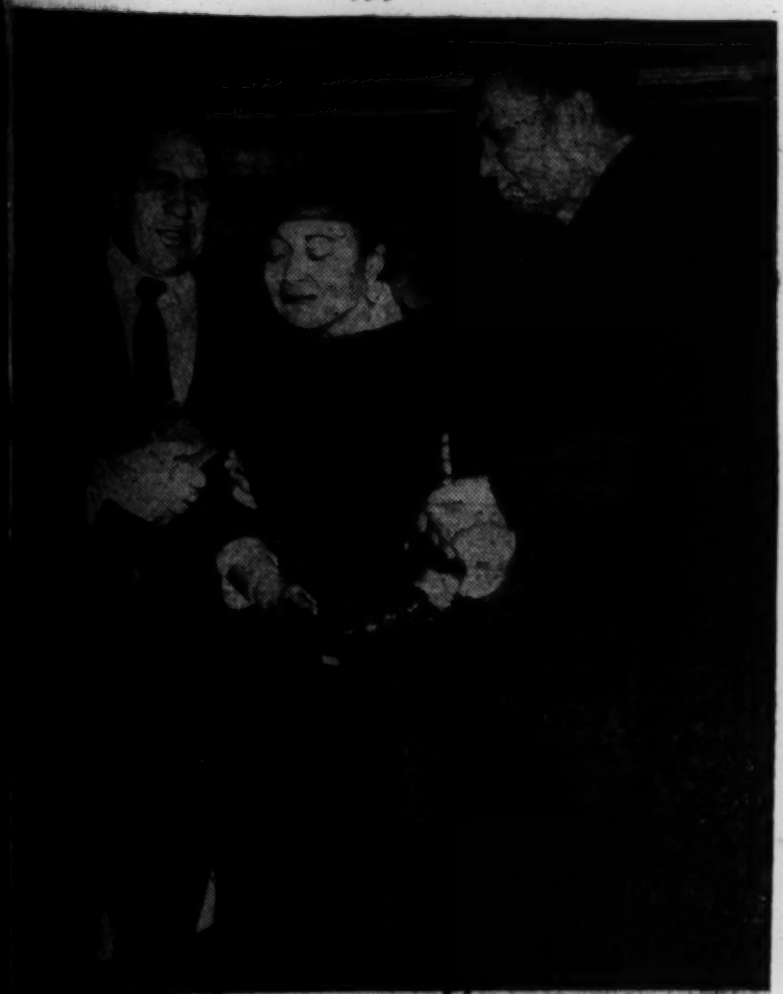
Till Case Justice Brings on Storm

Herald
Fri. 11-11-55

GREENWOOD, Miss. —(UP) —The Emmett Till kidnap-slaying case is closed, a prosecutor said Thursday, but the furor over "Mississippi justice" stirred up by the Negro boy's fate rages on.

P. 2-C

A grand jury of 20 White men late Wednesday revealed its refusal to indict Roy Bry-



(TRIBUNE Photo)

Bishop Ford (left) and Bishop Roberts aiding Mrs. [illegible] after funeral yesterday of her son, [illegible] Till, slain in Mississippi.

Dixie Jury Indicts Two In Slaying of Boy, 14

BUMNER, Miss., Sept. 6 (AP).— A county grand jury today indicted two white men for kidnaping and murdering Emmett Louis Till, 14-year-old Chicago Negro, who allegedly wolf-whistled at a white woman.

Roy Bryant, 24, and J. W. Milam, his half-brother, pleaded innocent when arraigned a few hours after the indictment.

Circuit Judge Curtis Swango, Jr., said he would set the trial date Monday morning.

TRIAL DUE

Dist. Atty. E. C. Strider said, "We expect to try them in this term of court." The three-week term began yesterday.

The men did not ask for bond and were taken to the Tallahatchie county jail in nearby Charleston.

The Tallahatchie county grand jury, composed of white men, indicted the men for kidnaping and murder earlier today.

Murder carries a maximum sentence of death, with a minimum of life in prison. The kidnaping statute under which they were indicted provides a maximum 10-year prison term.

Till's body, a bullet in his head and a 100-pound cotton gin fan tied to it to weight him down, was pulled from the Tallahatchie River Wednesday.

The body was kidnaped three days earlier from his uncle's home, where he was spending a planned two-week vacation that ended in death after one week.

Young Till allegedly "wolf-whistled" at Mrs. Bryant, wife of the Money storekeeper.

ADMIT SEIZING BOY

Sheriff George Smith of Leflore county said the men admitted taking Till from his uncle's home but said they released him unharmed.

Hundreds crowded out today in Chicago for the boy's funeral. Burial had been scheduled for Saturday but his mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley, postponed the funeral so everyone could "see what they did to my boy."



UP Telephoto

MRS. ROY BRYANT

'Pressure' Is Charged To NAACP

GREENWOOD, Miss — (AP) — The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was accused Wednesday of exerting "pressure" to "intimidate those who disagree with their radical aims."

Robertson Patterson, executive secretary of the pro-segregation Mississippi citizens councils, said he believes an FBI investigation of racial integration in Hoxie, Ark., schools was prompted by NAACP "pressure."

He charged that the NAACP "has practically taken over the judicial and executive branches of our government" and now seeks "to take over the sovereign states, one by one."

Southern states, he said, "will not be intimidated and the character and integrity of the South will preserve itself just as it did 80 years ago."

Slaying Probed By Mississippi

GREENWOOD, Miss., Sept. 1 (UP). — Gov. Hugh White today ordered a complete and impartial investigation of the slaying of a 15-year-old Negro boy who the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People charges was a lynch victim.

Two white men charged with kidnaping the boy after he was accused of insulting one of their wives face possible murder charges.

The body of Emmitt Till, of Chicago, was found yesterday in the Tallahatchie River. He had been shot in the head and his body weighted with 125 pounds of metal. Two white men had forced him to leave his uncle's home early Sunday.

DEPLORED BY GOVERNOR

White told a news conference in Jackson today that "Mississippi deplores such conduct on the part of its citizens and we certainly cannot condone it."

He said he had replied to an NAACP demand for action in the case that "the parties charged with murder are in jail . . . I have every reason to believe that the courts will do their duty in prosecution."

District Attorney Gerald Chatham said no formal murder charges had been placed against the men yet, but that he would ask a grand jury which meets early next week to return murder indictments against Roy Bryant, storekeeper, and his half-brother, J. W. Milan.

PROBE WELCOMED

In New York, Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the NAACP who yesterday called the murder a lynching, said he was "very glad" to hear White had ordered the investigation.

Till had been accused of insulting Bryant's wife.

Till's cousin, Maurice Wright, 16, said last Saturday night Emmitt bought some chewing gum at Bryant's store, "and left after telling the woman 'good-bye.' Outside, Emmitt gave a 'wolf call.' I told Emmitt to be careful of what he said in the store."

Negro Boy, 14, Is Slain, 2 Men Held as Lynchers

GREENWOOD, Miss., Aug. 31 (AP).—A fisherman found the body of a fourteen-year-old Negro in the Tallahatchie River today and the sheriff said two white men will be charged with murder. The youth, Emmit Louis Till of Chicago, had been visiting an uncle at the near-by community of Money before his disappearance early Sunday.

Officers said the teen-ager died of a bullet wound above the right ear and his body weighted with a cotton gin pulley fastened with barbed wire, was thrown into the river. Sheriff George Smith said Roy Braytn, a storekeeper of Money, and his half brother, J. W. Milam, would be charged with murder. Both are being held now on kidnaping charges.

"Ugly Remarks"

The sheriff said he was told three white men and a woman took the boy from his uncle's home early Sunday after the boy allegedly made "ugly remarks" to Brant's wife. Sheriff Smith said today, however, he now is satisfied that there were only two men and a woman in the car in which the boy was kidnapped. He said the search for the woman is continuing.

The Leflore county sheriff said Bryant admitted taking the boy from the house of his uncle, Mose Wright. However, Bryant said the youth was released when Mrs. Bryant said he was not the boy who made "ugly remarks" to her at the Bryant store in Money last Wednesday.

Took Boy to Car

The sheriff said two of the men brought the boy out from the Wright house to the car. The woman in the car was asked if Emmitt was the one who made the remark and when she replied in the affirmative the youth was placed in the car and driven off.

Mr. Wright told Sheriff Smith he asked the men where they were taking the boy and one of them replied "nowhere if he's not the right one."

His Mother Weeps

In Chicago, Emmitt's mother, Mamie Bradley, wept at the news. "I can't think, I just can't think. I'm frozen. He didn't do anything to deserve that. Somebody is going to pay for this. The entire State of Mississippi is going to pay for this."

She sobbingly continued: "I can't work. I have nothing left to work for. My whole life is ruined. Now I need all the financial help I can get. All I want now is to get my boy's body back and give him a decent burial. Then I'll have to go to work on this thing."

In New York, a spokesman for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said the case appeared to "qualify as a lynching." He said the last previous established case of lynching in the United States occurred in 1951.

"Lynching has sort of moved into the haze of maybe and maybe not," he said. "Bodies are found, Negroes are found shot. But now it's usually by persons unknown, and not by mobs."

The F. B. I. in Washington said it was keeping in close touch with Sheriff Smith on the case but had made no move to intervene because there had been no showing yet of a Federal law violation. The F. B. I. could move in if there was evidence of violation of civil rights laws or that the kidnaping involved crossing a state line.

RACES:

A Boy Goes Home

When the doors of the Roberts Temple of the Church of God in Christ in Chicago were thrown open one morning last week, a long, somber line of Negro men, women, and children started filing in. They moved slowly past a plain pine coffin to stare at the battered body of the 14-year-old Negro boy who lay within. Most of the mourners looked at him in silence and then walked away, their faces set, but some women

two men met again. Douglas MacArthur, a soldier no longer, stood at the door of his suite in the Waldorf Towers in New York, smiling broadly. "Glad to see you," he said. "It's been a long time. Glad to see you." Shigemitsu, who had spent two years in jail as a war criminal but was once more his country's Foreign Minister, returned the smile. "We don't want to reminisce just about the past," he declared. "We want to talk about the future relations between our countries."

Past and Future: Arm in arm, they walked into the suite. And there, surrounded by the mementos of General MacArthur's long years of service in the Orient—as commander of the Allied armies in the Pacific during the second world war, as commander of the occupation of Japan in the years following, and finally as commander of the United Nations in Korea—they talked for an hour.

MacArthur told Shigemitsu that he was not responsible for his trial, conviction, and imprisonment as a war criminal. The Russians had demanded it, he said.

MacArthur also told Shigemitsu that, had it not been for him, Emperor Hirohito would have been put on trial. Some of the nations allied with the U.S. —MacArthur did not name them— insisted on trying Hirohito, but the general protested "violently."

All told, more than 4,000 Japanese were imprisoned by the Allies in Sugamo Prison as war criminals. Most of them have since served out their sentences or been paroled. In his talk with Shigemitsu, MacArthur expressed the opinion that all the war criminals still in jail should be freed. There have been more naked aggressions—by the Communists—since the war, he felt, than any of which they were guilty.

Advice: MacArthur, who wrote into the Japanese constitution a provision—now ignored—against rebuilding the Japanese Army, Navy, and Air Force, advised Shigemitsu against creating a bigger armed force than Japan needed for defense. He declared that he did not think Russia would ever attack Japan unless Japan became aggressive again.

War, he said, was going out of existence because of the "growing realization that the victor no longer can win."



United Press

10,000 viewed Emmitt's body

8768

Sheriff Testifies Grocer Admitted Kidnaping Negro, Denied Killing

Courier-Journal
Thurs. 9-22-55
p. 2

Defense Objects To Evidence

Summer, Miss., Sept. 21 (AP)—A sheriff and his deputy testified today that two white half brothers admitted kidnaping a Chicago Negro boy last month but denied that they killed him.

Over vigorous defense objections, Sheriff George Smith testified at the murder trial of Roy Bryant, 24, and J. W. Milam, 36, that he talked to Bryant about the abduction of 14-year-old Emmett "Bobo" Till.

"I asked him about going down and getting the little Negro boy," Smith told a hushed courtroom, "and he said he went down and got him to let his wife identify him. His wife said it wasn't the boy and he turned him loose."

'Made Indecent Remarks'

Three days before young Till was abducted from the cotton-field shack of his uncle August 28, he had allegedly made indecent remarks and gestures to Bryant's pretty 21-year-old wife, Carolyn, in the Bryants' grocery store at money, Miss.

Smith was followed to the witness stand by one of the deputies, John E. Cothran. He said he questioned Milam about the disappearance of Young Till.

"I asked him if they got the boy," Cothran said. "He said yes but they turned him loose."

On August 31 the boy's body was found in the muddy Tallahatchie River about 15 miles from Money. Till had been shot in the head. His body was weighted with a 100-pound cotton-gin fan.

Defendants Identified

Earlier ,the boy's uncle, Mose Wright, 64-year-old share cropper, identified both defendants as the abductors of his nephew. Later, under cross-examination, Wright said he knew the two men even though he had never seen them before that night.

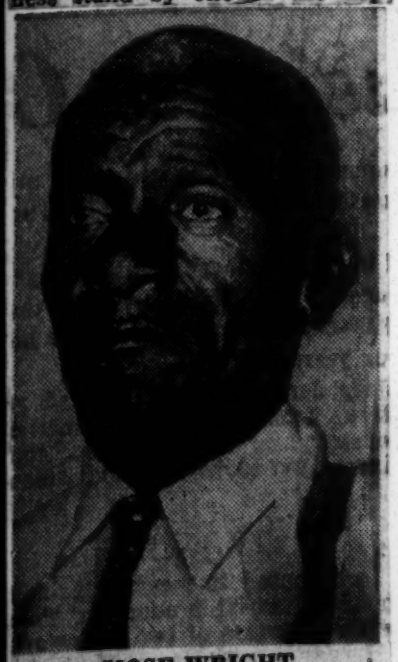
Wright, a small, lean Negro, was the State's opening witness. He answered the State's questions without hesitation and with a confident air.

Wright pointed his right forefinger at Milam as one of the men who came to his house the night of August 28, demanded to "see the boy who done that talk at Money."

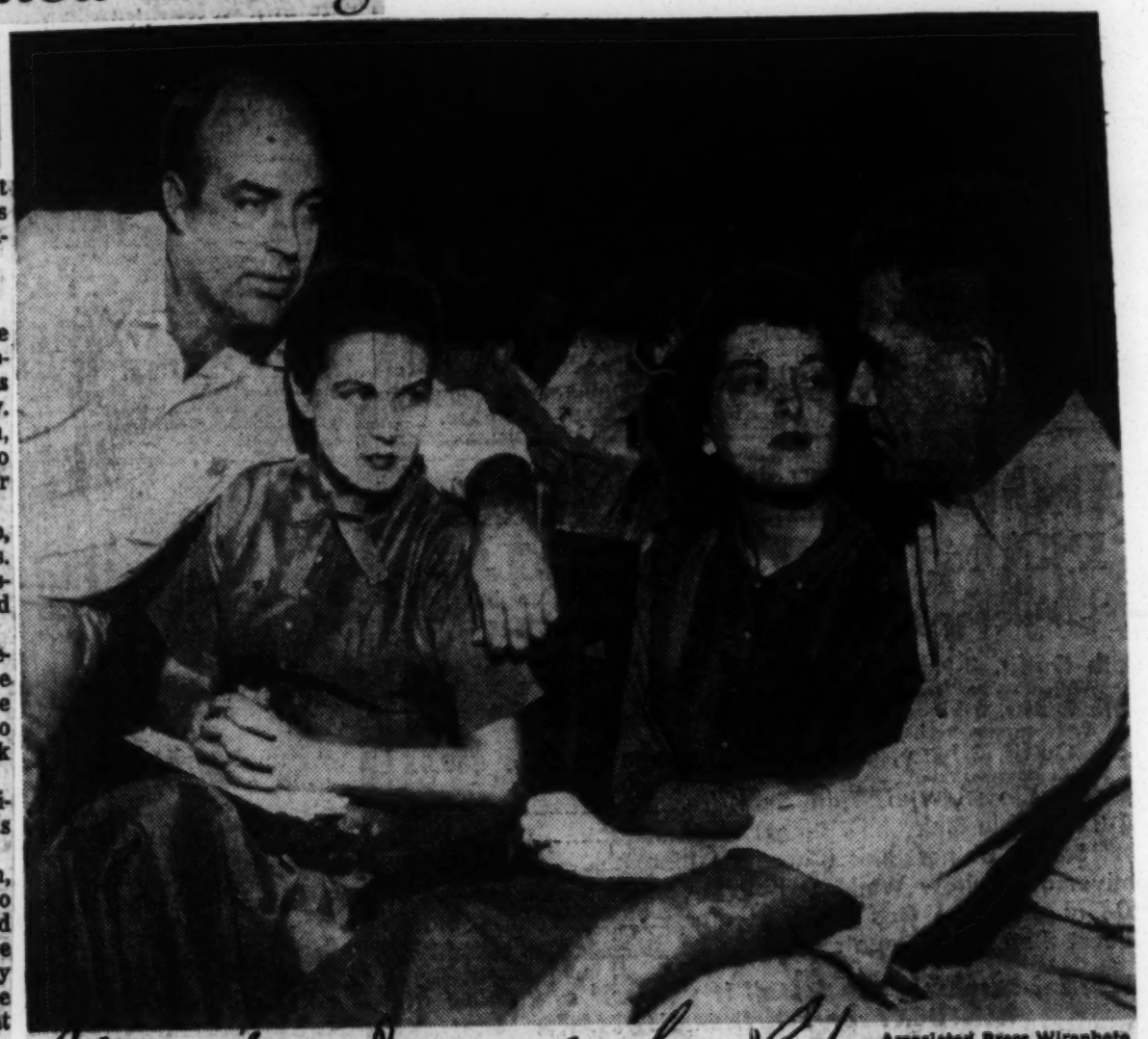
He said a second man identified himself at the scene as Bryant.

Under cross-examination, Wright said the night was so dark and moonless that he could barely see the car in which the abductors traveled. The only ray of light on the scene came from a flashlight which Wright said Milam carried.

Wright said he had never seen either defendant in his life until that moment.



MOSE WRIGHT
First State witness



Associated Press Wirephoto

Courier-Journal p. 1

DEFENDANTS, WIVES AWAIT VERDICT . . . J. W. Milam, left, and Roy Bryant sit with their wives in the courtroom at Sumner, Miss., during the final day of the trial of the two men that resulted in acquittal yesterday afternoon on a murder charge.

Pair Is Acquitted In Slaying of Negro Boy

Mississippi Jury Out 67 Minutes; 3 Ballots Taken

From Wire Dispatches

Sumner, Miss., Sept. 23. — Two Mississippi white men accused of the murder of Emmett Louis "Bobo" Till, 14-year-old Chicago Negro, were acquitted today by a jury of 12 white neighbors after 67 minutes of deliberation.

The verdict came after three jury ballots.

A courtroom packed with Delta residents took the verdict in orderly fashion, but with a loud exclamation.

The defendants were Roy Bryant, 24-year-old Money, Miss., general-store keeper, and his half-brother, John W. Milam, 36, both born and reared in Tallahatchie County, where the trial was held.

Still Face Kidnap Charge

A kidnap charge in an adjoining county still hangs over them.

The verdict climaxed a case that caused an uproar throughout Mississippi and brought strong criticism of the state's white-supremacy practices from other sections of the country. Tempers have been running high here over the "outside" criticisms and nearly everyone in Tallahatchie has seen or heard of letters with vile language sent to local officials.

In closing arguments today the state called the murder a "cowardly act."

The defense cast doubt that a body taken from the Tallahatchie River three days after the abduction really was Till's. It could have been a "rabble-rouser's plant," the defense argued.

The foreman of the jury said the issue of the body's identification was the chief factor in the verdict.

Till was kidnaped from his uncle's cotton field shack August 28.

Bryant's 21-year-old wife, Carolyn, testified that on the night of August 24 a Negro had tried to date her and had wolf-whistled at her.

Authorities in pretrial statements offered the wolf-whistle incident at the Bryant store in the hamlet of Money as motive for the murder.

Juror No. 4, J. A. Shaw, signaled the climax of the trial at 3:43 p.m. from inside the tiny jury room in the Tallahatchie County Courthouse in Sumner.

After the jury came in, Shaw offered a simple "not guilty."

Circuit Judge Curtis Swango refused to accept this wording and sent the jury back. A few minutes later they returned with a verdict written down in proper legal fashion. It ran:

"We, the jury, find the defendants not guilty."

Milam and Bryant seemed impassive. Mrs. Bryant smiled and she and her husband clasped hands.

Shaw, one of nine cotton planters on the jury, was designated foreman by Judge Swango. Mississippi jurors do not pick their own chairman.

Shaw said the jury's decision was based on the State's failure to prove beyond reasonable doubt that it was young Till's body that was taken nude and mutilated from the Tallahatchie River.

'Rabblerouser' Theory Offered

In summing up today, defense lawyer John Whitten offered a theory that rabblerousers put a Negro body—dead some days—in the river, and falsely reported it as Till's. The defense said the body's condition indicated it had been dead some time beyond the three days Till had been missing.

Special Prosecutor Robert Smith, III, insisted that the body had been identified by the boy's mother and further identified by the ring it bore—a ring young Till inherited from his dead father.

Judge Swango, at the request of the State, dismissed Tallahatchie County kidnaping indictments against Bryant and Milam. He said Tallahatchie County had jurisdiction in Till's murder but not in his abduction. The body was found in Tallahatchie County. Money, scene of the kidnaping, is in adjoining Leflore County.

The pair were turned over to Leflore County Sheriff George Smith. They have been formally charged there with kidnaping, but the case has not gone to the grand jury.

2 White Men Indicted In Negro Boy's Murder

From Wire Dispatches

Sumner, Miss., Sept. 6.—An 18-man County grand jury indicted two white men today on charges of kidnaping and murdering Emmett Till, 14-year-old Negro boy from Chicago who allegedly whistled at the wife of one of the men.

Roy Bryant, 30, and J. W. Milam, 36, his half brother, pleaded innocent at their arraignment.

Murder carries a maximum penalty of death in Mississippi's gas chamber. The minimum sentence is life in prison. The kidnaping statute under which they were indicted carries a maximum term of 10 years in prison.

Circuit Judge Curtis Swango, Jr., said he would set the trial date Thursday morning.

Sheriff H. C. Strider said, "We expect to try them in this term of court." The three-week term began yesterday. The men did not ask for bond.

Body Found In River

Till's body, a bullet in his head and a 100-pound cotton-gin fan tied to his neck to weigh him down, was pulled from the Tallahatchie River Wednesday.

The boy was kidnaped three days earlier from his uncle's home, where he was spending a two-week vacation.

Young Till allegedly whistled at or made "ugly remarks" to Mrs. Bryant, wife of a storekeeper.

Guardsmen Withdrawn

Hundreds turned out today in Chicago for the boy's funeral. Burial had been scheduled for last Saturday, but his mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley, postponed the funeral so everyone could "see what they did to my boy."

National Guard troops were withdrawn from the Leflore County Courthouse in nearby Greenwood this morning. The two men had been held there under a kidnaping charge.

The guard was called out after officers received threatening telephone calls, and rumors had a group of Chicago Negroes converging on the city to seek revenge.

The all-white Tallahatchie County grand jury was made up mostly of planters.

In Milwaukee the National Urban League termed the murder a "lynching" which "hits all America between the eyes."

At its annual convention the league, an organization devoted to better race relations, said its previous optimism about progress in interracial affairs "has been blasted" by Till's death.

In Chicago, N.A.A.C.P. Attorney William Henry Huff said:

"Unless the men are given death . . . I am going to file a $100,000 damage suit against them. . . . Even if they are given prison sentences, I'm going to file the suit."

8769

Justice dept. aide condemns Till case

Afro-American
Sat. 12-3-55
Baltimore Md.

WASHINGTON

Deputy Atty. Gen. William P. Rogers has condemned the administration of justice in the Till case, but asserts that the U.S. can do nothing about it.

Rogers, said that the Justice Department has received more than 3,000 letters protesting the freeing of J. W. Milam and Roy Bryant on the kidnap-murder of Emmett Till.

"We just have no authority to go into a state if we think there is a failure in the administration of justice," he said.

There was speculation as to whether Rogers' statement was an answer to a plea by Illinois Gov. William Stratton for a Justice Department investigation of the case.

Stratton, two weeks ago, requested Attorney General Brownell to look into the affair. Brownell had promised to see what could be done, but so far has issued no public statement.

Rogers made his statement on a television program. He refused to say whether he considered the trial as having been fair. When questioned on this point, he said:

"NO, I won't say there has not been a fair trial. I want to say this — that I think it's a black mark in the sense that those responsible have not been brought to justice."

He added that he was not familiar enough with the circumstances of the case to say exactly where the fault lies.

"Proper administration of justice would have required that these people who were guilty be punished," Rogers said.

disappeared while vacationing in Mississippi last summer. Roy Bryant and his half-brother, J. W. Milam, also were free of kidnapping charges.

The youth had been visiting his uncle, who told authorities two white men had taken the boy away for allegedly making remarks to Mr. Bryant's wife.

Mr. Rogers was asked in a televised interview of the American Broadcasting Company, College Press Conference: "Whether his comment implied that he thought there had not been a fair trial."

"No," Mr. Rogers replied, "I want to say this—that I think it's a black mark in the sense that those responsible have not been brought to justice."

He said he had not followed the case closely enough "to say exactly where the fault lies." He added, "Proper administration of justice would have required that these people who were guilty be punished."

He did not elaborate.

U.S. AIDE DEPLORES DELAY IN TILL CASE

Chicago Defender
Nov. 21, 1955

WASHINGTON, Nov. 20 (AP)—William P. Rogers, Deputy Attorney General today called the slaying of Emmett Till "a real black mark" in that the boy's killers "have not been brought to justice."

Two white men have been found innocent of murdering the 14-year-old Chicago Negro, who

of law may have been observed, but the spirit of justice was absent.

JUSTICE FOR ILLINOIS CITIZENS

Chicago Ill. Sun-Times
Nov. 13, 1955

Gov. Stratton has acted as he should have in calling to the attention of Atty. Gen. Brownell the failure of Mississippi authorities to punish the murderers of Emmett Till, a 14 year old Chicago Negro boy who was abducted and killed on Aug. 28.

Two white men were indicted for the murder, tried and acquitted. Evidence that they had kidnaped the boy as a preliminary to the slaying was presented thereafter to a grand jury in an adjoining county. Its members refused to indict.

The federal Constitution guarantees the citizens of every state equal protection of the laws, wherever they may be. If this can be invoked to punish the disfranchisement of citizens, it certainly should be applicable to murder.

Every state is also bound to give full faith and credit to the acts of other states. But certainly this carries with it the requirement that these acts should be in good faith. There is nothing in the record of the Till case to indicate that the citizens of Mississippi acted in good faith toward a citizen of Illinois. The forms

Accused Of Kidnap-Death Of 14-Year-Old Chicago Boy

BY E. J. MAYS

SUMNER, Miss. — (INS) — Two white men accused of murdering a 14-year-old Chicago Negro boy in the Mississippi Delta will go on trial for their lives on Monday, September 19.

Circuit Court Judge Curtis Swango set the trial date Friday in Sumner and ordered a prospective jury list of 125 men drawn up from which to select the 12 men who will sit in judgment on the sensational case.

The murder victim is Emmett Louis Till, who was abducted from the home of an uncle he was visiting in Money, Miss., beaten with an axe and shot through the head.

Roy Bryant, 24, of Money, and his half-brother, J. W. Milam, 36, of Glendora, were indicted on charges of murder and kidnaping. Till was killed after he allegedly whistled at Bryant's attractive 21-year-old wife and "talked ugly" to her.

The youth's body was found in the Tallahatchie River last week, weighted down with a 150-pound cotton gin fan secured with barbed wire.

District Attorney Gerald Chatham disclosed Friday that Till's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley of Chicago, has agreed to attend the trial. Earlier this week, Mrs. Bradley termed the Delta "a den of snakes."

Till's death set off a series of protests and brought charges from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People that Mississippi "has decided to maintain white supremacy by murdering children."

The governors of Mississippi and Illinois both asked for a full investigation of the death.

Till's body was returned to Chicago for burial. Thousands of Negroes filed by his casket to view the body.

NAACP statements in the case brought criticism from several Louisiana and Mississippi newspapers. The papers strongly condemned the murder, but charged the NAACP with trying to stir up racial strife.

Bryant and Milam are being held in the Charleston jail until the trial. They admitted taking Till from his uncle's home, but said he was released when Bryant's wife failed to identify him as the one who had whistled at her.

Victim's Mother To Attend Trial Despite Threats

Sumner, Miss. (ANP).—The eyes of the world will be focused on this small county seat in the restless Mississippi Delta next Monday when two white men, accused of the brutal lynch-murder of a 14-year-old Negro boy, go on trial for their lives.

A special assistant attorney general has been appointed to help prosecute Roy Bryant, 24, of Money, and his half-brother, J. W. Milan, 36, of Glendora, who are charged with the murder of Emmett Louis Till.

The pair admit taking the Chicago youth from the home of his uncle after the boy allegedly whistled at Mrs. Bryant in a store. They claim Emmett was released unharmed.

Mrs. Mamie Bradley, 33, mother of the victim, will travel to Mississippi to appear as a witness for the prosecution. She will in all likelihood be called on to prove that the body taken from the Tallahatchie River was that of her son.

Chicago Atty. William Henry Huff, counsel for Mrs. Bradley, said she will be accompanied by her pastor, Bishop Ford; the president of the Chicago NAACP, Mrs. Cora P. Andrews, and a white judge from Indiana, who is a native of Mississippi.

Because of numerous alleged threats, Mississippi authorities have promised to provide special protection for Mrs. Bradley while she is in the state.

The NAACP has expressed doubt that the two men will be convicted and this same opinion has been stated by many residents of the Mississippi Delta area—the people from whom a jury will be picked.

Under Mississippi law, conviction of murder automatically calls for the death sentence, unless the jury recommends mercy. The minimum penalty is life imprisonment.

The Jackson (Miss.) Daily News quoted Sidney Carlton, defense attorney for the accused men as saying: "The people of this area all regret this thing happened. We don't condone such actions, but the people here are not convinced that Bryant and Milan killed the Negro boy."

When the trial opens Monday, Bryant and Milan will be allowed a choice of separate trials. They will be tried for the murder indictment first, and will still face trial on charges of kidnaping.

World-wide reaction to the brutal crime continued to mount. From Rome, Italy, William Faulkner, Mississippi's most famous son, issued a statement in which he called the killing a threat to the survival of American culture. He said:

"If we in America have reached that point in our desperate culture when we count murder children, no matter for what reason or what color, we don't deserve to survive, and probably won't."

Two Baptist conventions, one meeting in Memphis, Tenn., and the other in Chicago, passed resolutions condemning the murder, as did the United Packinghouse Workers of America, a CIO union.

Charles Hayes, district director of the union, told more than 1,000 members at an "Emmett Louis Till" meeting that all leaders of organized labor should use their resources to fight for justice in the case.

Hayes and the packinghouse leaders applauded the strength and courage of Mrs. Bradley, and pledged all-out financial and moral support to her and her family.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Bradley said she hopes the Communist party or other subversive organizations do not use the murder of her son to further their own aims. Communist literature was passed out to thousands of persons who viewed the boy's body.

She said she has received no aid from the Communist party and that she hopes the prosecution of her son's murderers will be an aid to the people of the United States "and not a help to the Communists."

Atty. Huff said Mrs. Bradley will stop in Cleveland, Ohio, Sunday to address a meeting of the NAACP, where Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the group, will also make an appearance.

Huff has announced intentions of filing a civil suit for $100,000 against Milan and Bryant if they are acquitted of the murder and kidnaping charges, or even if they receive any sentence less than death.

Mother of Slain Boy to Attend Lynch Trial

CHICAGO. — Mrs. Mamie Bradley, mother of 14-year-old Emmitt Louise Till, has received a special request from the district attorney at Sumner, Miss., that she attend the trial of the two men charged with the slaying of her son at Money, Miss., last week.

In a telegram to Mrs. Bradley, District Attorney Gerald Chatham told her that he thinks it is important to the state's case that she appear.

It is believed that Mrs. Bradley will be called upon to testify that the body taken from the Tallahatchie river was that of her son.

William Henry Huf, attorney for the 33-year-old mother, said that she will be accompanied to Mississippi by her pastor, Bishop Louis J. Ford; the president of the Chicago NAACP, Mrs. Cora P. Andrews and a white judge from Indiana who is a native of Mississippi.

Ex-FBI Man To Assist In Prosecution

SUMNER, Miss. — (INS) — A former FBI agent has been named to help prosecute the two white men accused of the kidnap-murder of Emmett Louis Till.

He is Robert E. Smith, 3rd, of Ripley.

Smith will help District Attorney Gerald Chatham prosecute Half-brothers Roy Bryant, 24, of Money and J. W. Milam, of Glendora.

Till, a 14-year-old Chicago boy, was taken from the home of an uncle he was visiting in Money after allegedly whistling at Bryant's wife and "talking ugly" to her.

His battered body was found three days later in the Tallahatchie river.

Bryant and Milam pleaded innocent to the charges against them.







Mothers throughout the world are visibly shaken by the plight of a Chicago mother who lost her only child, a playful 14-year-old, in one of the most violent tragedies in Mississippi's latest wave of terror. Pictured in the top scene is Mrs. Mamie Bradley, mother of Emmett Till, being assisted from Roberts Temple in Chicago after the funeral rites for her son. Aiding the distraught mother is Bishop Louis Ford, left, and Bishop Isiak Roberts, both of St. Paul's Church of God and Christ. Below are the alleged slayers Roy Bryant, left, and his half brother, J. W. Milam, who face trial Monday. Both ex-servicemen, are shown during their stint in the armed forces.—(Newspress Photos.)

8771

Mississippi Jury Due to Probe Slaying of Wolf-Whistle Boy

Journal
Thurs. 9-1-55

GREENWOOD, Miss., Sept. 1 (AP)—The wolf-whistle slaying of a 14-year-old Chicago Negro boy deep in Delta plantation country goes to a Mississippi grand jury Monday.

Death came to Emmitt Louis Till from a bullet wound behind his ear soon after he was kidnaped from his uncle's tenant farm home by men who apparently felt revenge for the two notes he sounded at a white storekeeper's wife.

A 16-year-old cousin, Maurice Wright, told Thursday of the incident preceding Till's death.

"When he came out of the house," said Wright, "I told him, 'boy, you know better than that.' He just laughed.

"He had polio when he was three and he couldn't talk plain. You could hardly understand him."

* * *

TWO WHITE men have been accused of the boy's kidnap-slaying and it is likely a Tallahatchie County grand jury will consider the charges Monday. Held without bond are Roy Bryant, the storekeeper, and his half brother, J. W. Milam, of Glendora.

Sheriff H. C. Strider of Tallahatchie County, said a warrant charging kidnaping had been issued for Mrs. Bryant, the storekeeper's wife, but that she could not be found at her home.

Bryant steadfastly maintains he released the boy after taking him from the home of Mose Wright near Money, Miss., 12 miles north of Greenwood.

* * *

GOV. WHITE of Mississippi asked local authorities Thursday to make a "complete and impartial investigation" of the boy's death.

He told a news conference in Jackson, Miss., that he had called off the district attorneys of Leflore and Tallahatchie Counties to make a "complete and impartial investigation" of the crime and to prosecute fully those responsible for it.

"Mississippi deplores such conduct on the part of its citizens and we certainly cannot condone it," White said.

Journal

White said he had replied to the National Association for the Advancement of Color People, which asked him to intervene, that "the parties charged with the murder are in jail. . . . I have every reason to believe that the courts will do their duty in prosecution. . . . Mississippi does not condone such conduct."

P6

Maurice Wright described the dramatic scene in which the lad was kidnaped. He said his father, Mose Wright, pleaded with the kidnapers not to take Emmitt away.

"Just take him out in the yard and whip him and I'll be satisfied," the uncle pleaded.

The violence began with bubble gum. That's what Maurice and Emmitt went to Bryant's store to get.

* * *

WHILE Tallahatchie legal proceedings moved along, a spokesman for the Association of Citizens Councils—groups organized to keep segregation in all walks of life—said the youth's death "is regrettable."

But, Robert Patterson, association executive secretary, said the death was not in any way connected with pro-segregation groups.

"One of the primary reasons for our organization is to prevent acts of violence," said Patterson. "We are doing our best in spite of constant agitation and inflammatory statements by the NAACP and outside agitators."

A fisherman found the battered, weighted body of the Negro boy in the Tallahatchie River Wednesday, four days after two white men and a woman kidnaped him. The boy had been shot through the head.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in a bitter statement following the slaying said "Mississippi has decided to maintain white supremacy by murdering children."

* * *

DISTRICT Attorney Gerald Chatham said in Hernando the grand jury should consider the case by Tuesday at the latest. Trial of the two men could come up this month, but likely will be held at the March term of Tallahatchie Circuit Court, Chatham said.

Sheriff Strider said he "will seek speedy prosecution" of the two accused men.

The slain boy's body was found in Strider's county. The kidnaping occurred in adjoining Leflore County.

A deputy sheriff said he had been shot in the head shortly after he was abducted from an uncle's home after reportedly making "ugly remarks" to a white woman in her husband's store at Money.

Sheriff George Smith of Leflore County said Bryant admitted taking the boy from his uncle's home, but said Till was released later unharmed.

Here is the statement released by the NAACP in New York:

"The killers of the boy felt free to lynch him because there is in the entire state no restraining influence of decency, not in the state capital, among the daily newspapers, the clergy nor any segment of the so-called better citizens."

In Chicago, Till's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley, sobbed, "The entire State of Mississippi is going to pay for this."

Kidnap-slaying of Negro boy stirs Mississippi Delta

News p. 3, 4

GREENWOOD, Miss., Sept. 2—(AP)—The drowsy Mississippi River delta stirred uneasily today as the governors of Mississippi and Illinois called for an investigation of the wolf whistle slaying of a 14-year-old Chicago Negro.

Emmitt Louis Till met death by gunshot and possibly by an ax bit for whistling at the comely 27-year-old wife of a Delta storekeeper.

8-22-55

Negro friends warned young Till to get out of town, that he hadn't heard the last of it. Three days later his naked body, too battered to be embalmed, was found in the Tallahatchie River.

"This is not a lynching," said Gov. Hugh White of Mississippi. "It is straight out murder." He called for a full investigation.

Gov. William Stratton of Illinois said his attorney general would ask Mississippi authorities for a "complete investigation."

TWO MEN were being held without bail in the LeFlore County Jail for the kidnap-slaying. They were Storekeeper Roy Bryant, a 27-year-old ex-paratrooper, and his half-brother, 36-year-old J. W. Milam, an Army lieutenant in World War II.

Bryant's wife, who according to all versions was the object of the wolf whistle, was being sought.

The incident began more than a week ago when Till, who was visiting his uncle, Moses Wright, went with a group of Negro friends to the little store at Money, Miss., to buy some bubble gum.

"I guess Emmitt was killed because of the wolf whistle at a pretty 27-year-old white lady," said Wheeler Parker, the dead boy's 16-year-old cousin, who was also visiting the farm and has since returned to his Argo, Ill. home.

NOTHING happened until early Sunday morning when a car drove up to the farm of Moses Wright. Two (possibly three) white men and a woman had come for Emmitt Till. They asked for the "boy from Chicago."

Young Parker insists he saw three men.

Bryant has admitted carrying the boy off from the house, but insists he released him unharmed.

Deputies struggled several hours to retrieve the body weighted down with the 150-pound fan of an abandoned cotton gin.

There was a bullet hole above his right ear, and the left side of his face had a deep cleft, probably from an ax bashing.



United Press Telephoto

HEAVY GIN FAN WIRED TO BOY'S BODY
Inspected by Greenwood Deputy John Ed Cochran

Negro, 14, Called Insulter, Is Pulled From River Dead

Constitution p. 1
Atlanta, Ga.
Thurs. 9-1-55

GREENWOOD, Miss., Aug. 31 (AP)—The weighted body of a 14-year-old Negro boy, kidnaped three days ago because he made "ugly remarks" to a white woman, was pulled from the Tallahatchie River today.

Emmitt Louis Till, Chicago boy visiting his uncle at nearby Money, died of a bullet wound above the right ear.

Sheriff George Smith of Leflore County said two white men already charged with kidnaping, would be charged with murder. They are Roy Bryant, Money storekeeper, and his half-brother, J. W. Milam of Glendora.

Sheriff Smith said Bryant admitted taking the boy from his uncle's home but said Till was released unharmed.

Till's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley of Chicago, sobbed:

"Someone is going to pay for this. The entire State of Mississippi is

going to pay for this.

"I can't think; I just can't think. I'm frozen.

"He didn't do anything to deserve that."

The National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People said Till's death looks like a lynching and demanded vigorous prosecution.

Till was visiting his uncle, tenant farmer Mose Wright, when he was kidnaped Sunday morning. A deputy sheriff said Till "must have been killed Sunday, shortly after the kidnaping."

Till was buried this afternoon at Money. His body was in "such bad shape it couldn't be shipped" to Chicago for burial, a funeral home attendant said.

The youth reportedly made "ugly remarks" to Mrs. Bryant, the storekeeper's wife, last week. He was kidnaped early Sunday.

A teen-aged boy, fishing in the Tallahatchie River spotted Till's body caught in a drift. His feet and legs stuck above the water.

cratic nomination for Governor, said he knew of "no violation of anybody's civil rights in connection with Mississippi primaries. My services as attorney general will be used to the limit to vindication of Mississippi's good name."

Declaring that "this hue and cry" has been raised in past years, Mr. Coleman added that Mississippi is "perfectly capable of conducting its own election without any assistance from the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) or its sympathizers."

Coleman Won in Runoff

Mr. Coleman won the nomination for Governor in a runoff primary August 23.

It is not known at this time how many of Mississippi's 22,000 registered Negro voters voted in the August 23 runoff or in the original primary held a month ago today.

Mr. Brownell said he has received many complaints that "registered and qualified" Negroes were denied the right to vote in both contests.

If his investigation "discloses that any citizen has been deprived of his constitutional rights," Mr. Brownell declared, "immediate and vigorous action will follow."

was visiting in Mississippi, was found Wednesday in the Tallahatchie river in the Mississippi Delta area. He had been beaten and shot in the head.

Two white men, charged with murder, are being held in the case. Till was reported to have been spirited away from the home of an uncle in Money, Miss., after he had whistled at a white woman.

(In Mississippi, three daily newspapers, the Clarksdale Press-Register, published near the scene of the killing; the McComb Enterprise-Journal and the Jackson Daily News, condemned the kidnap-slaying and called for vigorous prosecution. The Jackson Daily News, in addition, condemned the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People for calling the killing a lynching.

(In New Orleans the bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal church in Louisiana and Mississippi, Rt. Rev. H. Thomas Primm, asked that September 8 and 9 be designated days of mourning to protest the "ruthless killing." He called on Mississippians to wear a strip of black ribbon three inches long on those dates.)

Sheriff Smith said Bryant admitted taking the boy from his uncle's home but said Till was released unharmed.

Till's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley of Chicago, sobbed:

"Someone is going to pay for this. The entire state of Mississippi is going to pay for this.

"I can't think; I just can't think. I'm frozen. He didn't do anything to deserve that."

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People said Till's death looks like a lynching and demanded vigorous prosecution.

Roy Wilkins, NAACP's executive secretary, issued a bitter statement in New York, asserting:

"It would appear from this lynching that the state of Mississippi has decided to maintain white supremacy by murdering children. The killers of the boy felt free to lynch him because there is in the entire state no restraining influence of decency, not in the state capital, among the daily newspapers, the clergy nor any segment of the so-called better citizens."

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Till was buried this afternoon at Money. His body was in "such bad shape it couldn't be shipped" to Chicago for burial, a funeral home attendant said.

The youth allegedly made "ugly remarks" to Mrs. Bryant, the storekeeper's wife, Saturday night. He was kidnaped early the next morning.

Money and 25 miles north of Greenwood.

The FBI in Washington said it was keeping in contact with Sheriff Smith but had not taken part in the case since there was no showing of a federal law violation.

The FBI could enter the case if there were evidence of violation of civil rights laws or if the kidnaping involved crossing a state line. Murder and kidnaping carry a maximum penalty of death in Mississippi's gas chamber.

Mississippi Election Probed by FBI Agents

By the Associated Press

Attorney General Brownell promises to take "immediate and vigorous action" if he finds that Negro rights were violated in Mississippi's Democratic primary elections last month.

But two Mississippi leaders have indicated they don't think the Justice Department chief will find anything wrong.

Mr. Brownell disclosed late yesterday that he has ordered an investigation, which FBI agents are already conducting.

"Reports indicate," he said, "that in some counties Negroes were refused ballots when they allegedly failed to answer correctly several irrelevant and frequently illegal questions.

"In other counties the indications are that ballots cast by Negroes were apparently not counted and that Negroes were kept from the polls by threats and intimidation."

Right Conceded

Tom Tubb, chairman of the Mississippi Democratic Executive Committee which conducted the elections, said Mr. Brownell "has a perfect right to investigate. Not that he'll find anything, though."

And Attorney General J. P. Coleman, who won the Demo-

Slain Negro Youth's Body Is in Chicago for Funeral

CHICAGO, Sept. 2 (AP)—The body of Emmett Till, 14-year-old Chicago Negro who was slain in Mississippi, was returned to his home town Friday.

The train bearing the boy's body was met by his mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley, who has said that President Eisenhower should "see that justice is done."

Funeral services will be held at the Church of God.

Mayor Richard J. Daley of Chicago Thursday sent a telegram to President Eisenhower urging that "all the facilities of the federal government be immediately utilized so that the ends of justice may be served."

Gov. William G. Stratton of Illinois also has advocated a "complete investigation."

The body of the Till boy, who

Body of Kidnaped Negro Youth Is Found in River

GREENWOOD, Miss., Aug. 31 (AP)—The weighted body of a 14-year-old Negro boy, kidnaped three days ago because he made "ugly remarks" to a white woman, was pulled from the Tallahatchie River today.

Emmitt Louis Till, Chicago boy visiting his uncle at near by Money, died of a bullet wound above the right ear.

Sheriff George Smith of LeFlore County said two white men, already charged with kidnaping, would be charged with murder. They are Roy Bryant, Money storekeeper, and his half-brother, J. W. Milam of Glendora.

A teen-aged boy fishing in the Tallahatchie River spotted Till's body caught in a drift. His feet and legs stuck above the water.

Sheriff H. C. Strider of Tallahatchie County said, "We went down and found the body hung in a drift. We kept working around and finally released it and pulled it to the bank.

"We found a bullet hole one inch above his right ear. The left side of his face had been cut up or beat up — plumb into the skull."

The body was found in Talahatchie County. The kidnaping happened in adjoining LeFlore County.

The site was on Pecan Point of the river, about 12 miles north of

8772

Boy's Slaying Is Classified As Lynching

Constitution
Atlanta, Ga.
Wed. 9-7-55

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Sept. 6 (UP) —The death of a 14-year-old Chicago Negro whose accused murderers were indicted by a Mississippi grand jury was listed today as a lynching by the research department of Tuskegee Institute.

Miss Jessie Guzman, director of the Negro college's records and research department, said, "The circumstances surrounding the death of Emmett Till classified his death as a lynching."

A Tallahatchie County grand jury indicted half-brothers J. W. Milam, 36, and Roy Bryant, 30, for the kidnap-murder of Till. The victim was taken from the home of an uncle Aug. 28 at Greenwood, Miss., for "wolf-whistling" at the wife of one of the men.

Miss Guzman said Tuskegee Institute classifies a lynching as an act of murder participated in by at least three persons.

She said evidence in the Till case showed that the wife of one of the defendants was in the automobile when the young Negro was kidnaped from his uncle's home.

Miss Guzman said, "the woman might not have had a part in the actual slaying, but she was along when the boy was kidnaped."

DEATH OF NEGRO BOY IS LISTED AS LYNCHING

Herald Tribune
New York, N.Y.
Wed. Sept. 7, 1955

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8773

Emmett Till's Blood 'Cries Out'

In His 65th Year, Jernagin Decries Murder in Mississippi

WASHINGTON, D. C.—"After sixty-five years of pastoring and eighty-six birthdays, I have seen many changes take place in America and throughout the world," said Dr. W. H. Jernagin, pastor of the Mount Carmel Baptist Church, while celebrating his birthday.

"I have noticed," he said, "the progress made by members of my race in the face of many unfavorable circumstances. The educational level of the entire race has been lifted due to the thousands of young men and women coming out of our colleges and universities."

Mississippi, where he was born, is, he said, a state of great statesmen and the only state to send two Negroes to the United States Senate. However, he lamented, "recent occurrences in my state have caused me to hang my head in shame.

The murder of little Emmett Till saddened not only the hearts of colored people but of Christians everywhere. The trial which followed made a mockery of justice. If the same set of circumstances involved two Negro men, the verdict would have been exactly the opposite of not guilty."

* * *

THE BLOOD of Emmett Till "cries out to every American," said Dr. Jernagin, "and especially to Christians.

"It is a challenge to Christians everywhere to be more vocal in denouncing this evil," he said.

"I also urge Christian leaders in Mississippi, both Negro and white, to engage in a series of prayers with their legal efforts to get justice under the law."

Leaders, said Dr. Jernagin, must endeavor to secure the rights for our people in a Christian way, "even if it means death as in the case of the Baptist minister of Belzoni, Miss., whose name is immortalized in blood and sacrifice."

Youth, said Dr. Jernagin in the mockery of justice," an official of the Congregational Christian church said Tuesday.

The verdict of the jury in Sumner, Miss., "has humiliated the decent citizens of that state and all the rest of us, and has inreparably damaged the influence and reputation of the United States in the rest of the world," said the Rev. Galen R. Weaver of New York, in an address at the church's Eastern regional meeting.

He is racial and cultural relations secretary of the church's Council for Social Action.

TILL CASE HURTS U.S., STATES AJC

Urges Congress to Stiffen Civil Rights Laws

NEW YORK, Oct. 21 (JTA)—The American Jewish Committee said today Mississippi's Till case did "enormous damage to American prestige abroad."

The committee report was one of the strongest non-Negro criticisms yet of the September acquittal of two white half-brothers in the murder of Emmett Till, 14, a Negro boy.

The AJC called upon Congress to stiffen existing federal civil rights laws and to throw the attorney general's office and the FBI behind their rigid enforcement.

"Only speedy implementation of these civil rights recommendations can deal effectively with any recurrence of a Till case," the AJC added.

Effects in Europe Cited

In some parts of Europe, the report said, the Till case temporarily offset the favorable impact of the U. S. Supreme Court's desegregation decision.

Some critics condemned only Mississippi, the report went on, but others condemned the entire South and the entire United States.

Young Till, a visitor from Chicago, was kidnaped from his uncle's shack near Money, Miss., Aug. 28. Three days later his body was found in the Tallahatchie River.

The state contended the boy was slain after he wolf-whistled at 21-year-old Mrs. Roy Bryant in her crossroads store at Money.

On Sept. 23, after a week's trial, an all-male, all-white jury at Sumner, Miss., acquitted Mrs. Bryant's husband and his half-brother, J. W. Milam, of first degree murder in the case.

Says Condemnation 'Swift'

The AJC said a survey of public reaction in six countries of Europe and North Africa revealed that the acquital evoked "swift, violent and universal" condemnation. It was not limited to Communist or Communist-controlled groups, the report added.

The report was prepared for AJC's National Executive Board meeting which opens here tomorrow. Copies of the report and its recommendations were sent to Senate and House Judiciary committees.

DAY OF MOURNING ASKED

Memorial to Slain Negro Boy Urged by Baptist Group

The Empire Baptist Missionary Convention of New York has asked its constituent churches to designate a "day of mourning" sometime next year for Emmett Louis Till. Two white men charged with the murder of the young Negro were acquitted recently by a Mississippi jury.

The convention also proposed that a national conference be called to consider the problems of race. The Baptist body met last week at the Southern Baptist Church, 12 West 108th Street.

Church Head Hits Till Trial Verdict

CONCORD, N. H., Oct. 25 (JTA)—A Mississippi jury's recent acquittal of two white men charged with murdering a 14-year-old Chicago Negro boy was a disgraceful

THE MAN WHO WENT TO WAR

I am the man who went to war!
I am the man who died for Freedom!
My soul is not at peace,
My soul weeps.
I am the man who perished in the war.
I am the man who went to war,
Father of the little boy
Slain in Mississippi
By some enemy.
They say
He whistled at a white woman
And had to die.
I am his father
Who perished in the war.
I am the man who went to war
To fight for the Freedom-loving
Peoples of the world
Of all colors,
Of all creeds
And of all faiths.
They killed my son
For whistling at a white woman
In the deep South.
His screams drowned out
The boom of the H-bomb
While Intolerance looked on
And laughed!
They say
He whistled at a white woman
And had to die.
Who perished in the war.
Who will bring his killers
To justice?
Who will stand up
Before the world
And cry, MURDER!
Will it be me,
His father who perished in the war!
Or will it be
The Freedom-loving peoples
I gave my life for?
Oh, America,
Listen to me!
Weigh this bestial crime,
Hurl your wrath on the guilty,
Crush them with your force of right
And remember me,
The man who went to war
And died for Freedom!

Ministers endorse Till protest cards

Fri, 10-21-55

Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance has endorsed the postcards, executed by artist Marvin Grayson and picturing Mrs. Mamie Bradley mourning over the coffin of her murdered son Emmett Till against a background of mass protest against the crime, the Florence Fair Employment Practices committee, which printed the postcards, announced this week.

The cards carry a plea to President Eisenhower and Attorney General Brownell to use the power of the federal government to "stop lynchings and protect the jobs, lives, and voting rights of Negroes," chairman Johnnie B. Thomas said.

They are available to individuals and organizations for $2.00 per hundred or in smaller quantities.

Describing them as an effective protest, Thomas said four printings of the card had been exhausted in the first 10 days.

"Over 5000 were purchased at the Naacp mass meeting, and we have been getting orders by mail from all over the Pacific Coast," he added.

They may be obtained by writing 823 E. 94th st., or calling LU 5-4012.

Rape Of Justice In Mississippi

Staff Correspondence

GREENWOOD, Miss —— The cotton curtain of Mississippi was raised here Monday for the second act of the play titled "The Rape of Justice in Mississippi."

But even as the curtain went up, there were early indications that this time it could not be called rape — this time it would be just plain, downright fornication.

The scene of Act 2 in the drama has been changed from the tiny little Hamlet of Sumner in Tallahatchie County to the metropolitan city of Greenwood in Leflore County. But the characters and the plot of the play in Act 2 remain pretty much the same as that of Act 1.

As in act 1, the starring role will be played by the ghost of 14-year-old Emmett Till, whose brutally beaten body was fished from the Tallahatchie River last Aug. 29.

The main supporting roles will be played by Roy Bryant and J W Milam, half brothers whom Mississippi cheered when they were acquitted of murder in Act 1, and who are out on bail in Act 2 to prove that they can also beat a kidnapping charge with an all-white jury.

PLOT THE SAME

The central plot of the play is still the same:

It seeks to prove that a Mississippi white man can defy the Federal Government, rape justice and get away with both kidnapping and murder if the only thing involved is the life, liberty and pursuit of happiness of a colored person.

This would be a hard thing to prove in a northern state. But here in Mississippi, which, is beset by a reign of terror against colored citizens, Roy Bryant and J W Milam might prove it very easily.

For the only things that can prevent them from proving it are the bony fingers of two courageous but ill starred colored men-18-year-old Willie Reed and 61-year-old the Rev Moses Wright.

At some time during Act 2, young Willie and "Old Man Mose" will shuffle onto the stage and point bony but accusing fingers at Bryant and Milam and accuse them of takng Emmett Till from Mr Wright's home in Money, Miss, last August.

If that is not enough proof for the white jury-and indications are that it will not be enough-Bryant and Milam will walk free from the courthouse and the rape of justice in Mississippi will be completed.

Both Willie and Mr Wright came here at the risk of their lives to testify before a grand jury Monday in the hope of indicting the two men on a kidnaping charge.

They had previously risked their lives and fled their homes to Chicago after testifying against them in the murder trial.

WILLIE ILL

Willie is sick and is reported to have left a hospital bed to come here and testify. He has not been well since he left Mississippi and is reported have lost 18 pounds from his already emaciated frame.

The prosecutor for Act 2 will be Sandy Sanders, a redhaired white man here, who has the reputation of being fair in his dealings with colored people. The sheriff in Act 2 will be George Smith, a respected law officer, who is said to have ambitions of becoming a congressman.

Mrs. Bradley Makes Plea 'For Us to Wake Up; Been Asleep a Long Time

A crowd of about 800 persons last Sunday afternoon filled the auditorium of Willkie House and waited patiently an hour and ten minutes for the arrival of their guest speaker, Mrs. Mamie E. Bradley, whose plane was delayed during a storm enroute from Chicago, Ill.

The mother of Emmett Till, 14, who was kidnapped and slain while visiting relatives in Mississippi last September, was presented here at a mass meeting sponsored by the Des Moines branch of the NAACP, in the interest of the Fight for Freedom Fund, which netted $400.

Rushed from the airport, Mrs. Bradley was presented to the audience.

"I am a little shaken up from the trip," she paused. "It seems that everywhere I go, people are so interested and so sympathetic."

She told of receiving the news that her son was kidnapped, allegedly after wolf-whistling at a white woman.

"Finally, the news came that he was dead. I realized that I could not stop. It was like some machine clicking in my soul. I realized that I had to do something.

Would Cry

"It came to me that the mothers and fathers of America would cry for 'Bo' (Emmett); and I asked everyone to be calm.

Mrs. Bradley revealed that she met trouble when she tried to get her son's body from Mississippi, after learning that already it had been taken to a cemetery. She said an uncle secured it, took it to Charleston, Miss., where a white undertaker agreed to prepare it for shipping, after a seal had been made that the casket could not be opened upon arriving in Chicago.

When her son's body reached Chicago, "I took over," she said. Wanting to be sure, "I would still have to see."

In examining the body of her son, and seeing the horrible treatment it had suffered, Mrs. Bradley said "it just looked as though all the hatred and all the scorn, ever had for a Negro was taken out on that child."

At that moment, "I gained interest in everybody's child under the sun—to shake people and wake them up.

No One Safe

"Had I been rich, I could have thought that they wanted my money; but, all the money I had was seventeen dollars. Then I knew it could happen to any boy as long as it happened to one. No one is safe. Get busy and let it be known that we are not going to stand for it," she pleaded.

"The more I talk the lighter my burden feels," the mother paused.

"Truly I have had the feeling that I have been put under ether , I am more or less numb."

Mrs. Bradley urged her listeners to go to the polls and "speak through the ballot on what we want. Go to Washington and see what your senator is doing about civil rights."

She touched upon the recent trial in Sumner, Miss., in which two white defendants, were acquitted of the murder of her son. Kidnapping charges are still pending.

"Just a few of the colored people were allowed in the courtroom. The rest stayed out on the court house lawn," offering their bodies as protection to her, she felt.

Waking Up

"Everybody is waking up," she observed, referring to the Mississippians, "I don't know if they can fight this job from the inside. It is going to take more. This is your share of freedom that you are buying.

"In Mississippi, they told me 'you don't need protection;' but God did not let anybody bother us.

"It is time for us to wake up. We have been asleep a long time. We have been waiting for somebody to come and hand us something—and—that is not the way it is going to be. If you want to buy a car, you go out and plan for it. If you want this freedom you are going to have to plan for it, too.

Millions of Mothers

"With millions of mothers behind me, it is nothing for me to do but to carry this ball over the goal line. I have millions of children to live for now.

"Thanks for your letters and prayers that I might go on.

"With God helping me and you behind me, I don't think the devil stands a chance," Mrs. Bradley concluded.

Bishop L. H. Ford, pastor of the Chicago, Ill., church of which Mrs. Bradley is a member, and also, minister of the East Seventeenth Church of God in Christ, Des Moines, accompanied Mrs. Bradley, her father, Mr. John N. Carthan, and his daughter, Miss Mary Ann Washington, both of Detroit, Mich.

While awaiting the arrival of the guest speaker, Mr. Ernest (Speck) Redd, Des Moines musician and instructor of music, played an impromtu concert of piano numbers.

Arthur (Pat) Black, a young pianist, also offered a number. Other music was by the St. Paul AME choir directed by Mrs. Lauretta Hughes.

Presiding at the meeting was Atty. Archie Greenlee, president of the Des Moines Branch of NAACP.

Platform guests, aside from Bishop Ford and Mr. Carthan, were Ike Smalls, national vice president of NAACP; Mrs. Georgine C. Morris, president emeritus of the Iowa Conference of NAACP Branches; Mrs. Rose B. Johnson, chairman of the NAACP's Fight for Freedom Fund; Rabbi Issac Nardoff of Bethel Jacob Synagogue; Rev. John E. Hunter, pastor of St. Paul AME Church; Rev. Lovell Johnson, pastor of Bethel AME Church.

Argonne Post of the American Legion men advanced colors at the opening of the program.

Mrs. Bradley spoke Sunday night at Seventeenth Street Church of God in Christ.

Negroes Protest Till's Death In White House Demonstration

WASHINGTON, Oct. 24 (AP)—A group of 32 Chicago Negro religious leaders demonstrated outside the White House today against the killing in Mississippi of a 14-year-old Chicago Negro boy, Emmet Louis Till.

The demonstrators were led by Dr. C. W. Harding, pastor of the Victory Baptist Church of Chicago.

Harding said he planned to lead his group from the White House to the Capitol for a demonstration outside the office of Vice President Richard Nixon and a call later upon Atty. Gen. Brownell.

At Nixon's office, Harding said, the demonstrators would demand a special session of Congress to "enact federal anti-poll tax and anti-lynching legislation."

He said he would ask Brownell for "federal intervention in the Till case" and for federal action to end "racial disturbances in the Trumbull Park" federal housing unit leased to the city of Chicago.

Harding said some 29 Negro families are now occupants of apartments in the Trumbull Park project, but "subject to continual harassment and assault."

The Chicago minister said the others in the group he brought here were all representatives of various Chicago churches, including Baptist, Methodist and Church of God.

He said they came here to demonstrate for "justice in the lynching of Emmet Louis Till" by securing federal action "to end racial discrimination in America."

Two men were tried for the Till boy's death. One of them was the husband of a woman at whom witnesses said a young Negro wolf-whistled a few days before his death.

The men were acquitted after a jury said it was not satisfied with the identification of the body taken from a river.

The demonstrators carried placards as they marched around and around on the wide sidewalk outside the White House front lawn. One placard read "We Have Waited 336 Years For Equal Rights." Another read "Down With the Cotton Curtain." Three separate placards were carried reading "We Will Never Forget Emmet Till," "We Will Never Forget Reverend George Lee," and "We Will Never Forget Lamar Smith."

Harding said that both Lee and Smith were also Negroes "shot down" in Mississippi earlier this year "for registering to vote." Harding said the demonstration was sponsored by the Afro-American Congress of Christian Organizations, of Chicago.

At Nixon's office the delegation was informed the vice president had a previous luncheon engagement and would be unable to see them. The group left with expressions of disappointment.

Half a dozen Capitol police were on duty outside the office when the delegation arrived and only two leaders, Harding and Augustus Savage, were admitted to Nixon's office.

They talked briefly with one of the vice president's secretaries and told her of their requests that a special session of Congress be called to enact civil rights legislation.

After he left the office, Savage, editor of a Negro magazine in Chicago, told the delegation "We have come all the way from Chicago, and the vice president knew of our trip, but we are not going to be received. It seems that the answer is no."

Harding told a reporter "We believe he (Nixon) should have received us. We came here as Christian folk to try to do something about these outrages. The government must do something about them."

Till Kin To Talk At Coast Rallies

Defender Chicago Ill.
Sat 11-29-55

SAN FRANCISCO — Mrs. Mamie Bradley, mother of Emmett Till, will appear with Ruby Hurley, NAACP Southeast Regional Secretary, at a series of "protest rallies" from Seattle to San Diego beginning Nov. 9, the NAACP's West Coast Regional Office announced.

Purpose of these meetings is to bring the public a first-hand account of the "reign of terror" in Mississippi, and to register the protests of all fair-minded persons on the West Coast because of the "refusal and failure" of Mississippi to effect justice for Negroes, according to Franklin H. Williams, secretary-counsel.

SCHEDULE SET

Mrs. Bradley and Miss Hurley will speak at mass meetings in Seattle, Nov. 9; Portland, Nov. 10; Sacramento, Nov. 11; Oakland and San Francisco, Nov. 13; San Diego, Nov. 15; Santa Monica, Nov. 18; Phoenix, Nov. 19; and Las Vegas, Nov. 20.

Mrs. Bradley appeared as a state's witness at the trial of Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam, the two men indicted for the murder of her son Emmett.

She may be called to testify again should Bryant and Milam be indicted for kidnapping.

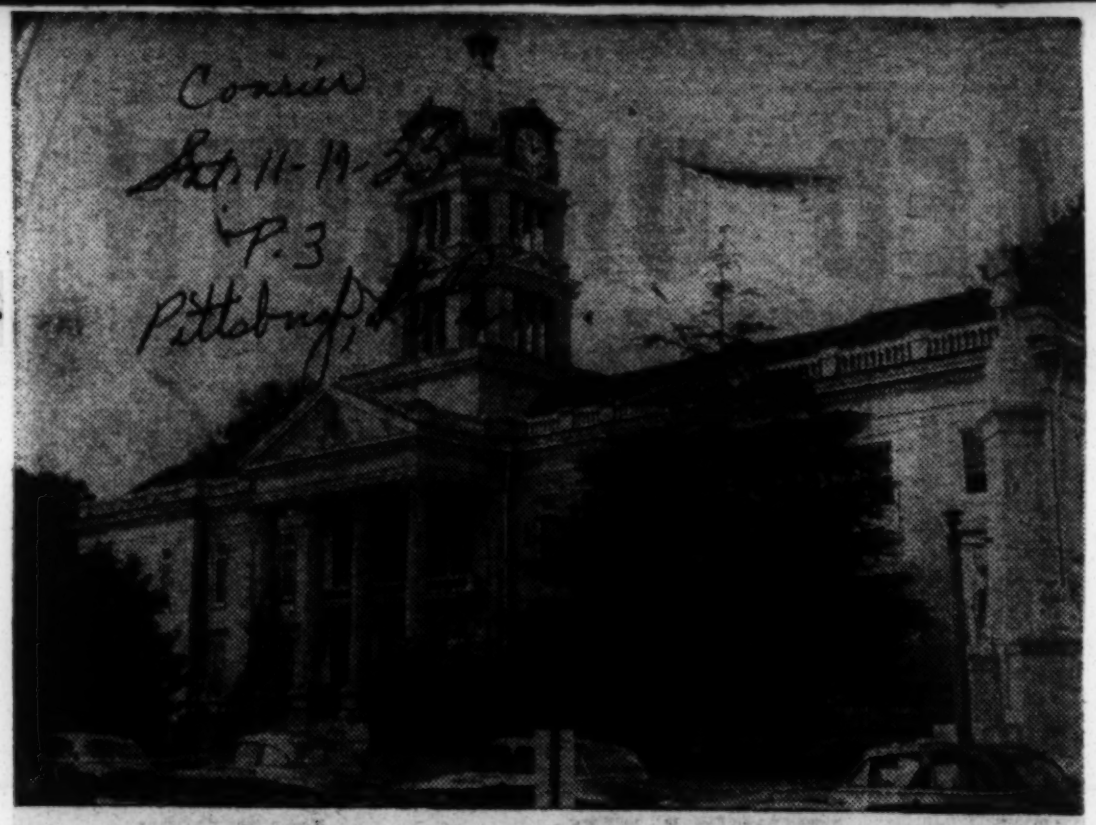
Miss Hurley, whose jurisdiction includes Mississippi, has investigated the murders of Rev. George Lee in Belzoni, Lamar Smith in Brookhaven and is credited with discovering two "surprise" witnesses for the state in the Till slaying.

Since the freeing of the Mississippi killers of young Till, Mrs. Bradley has addressed over 100,000 people in various cities.

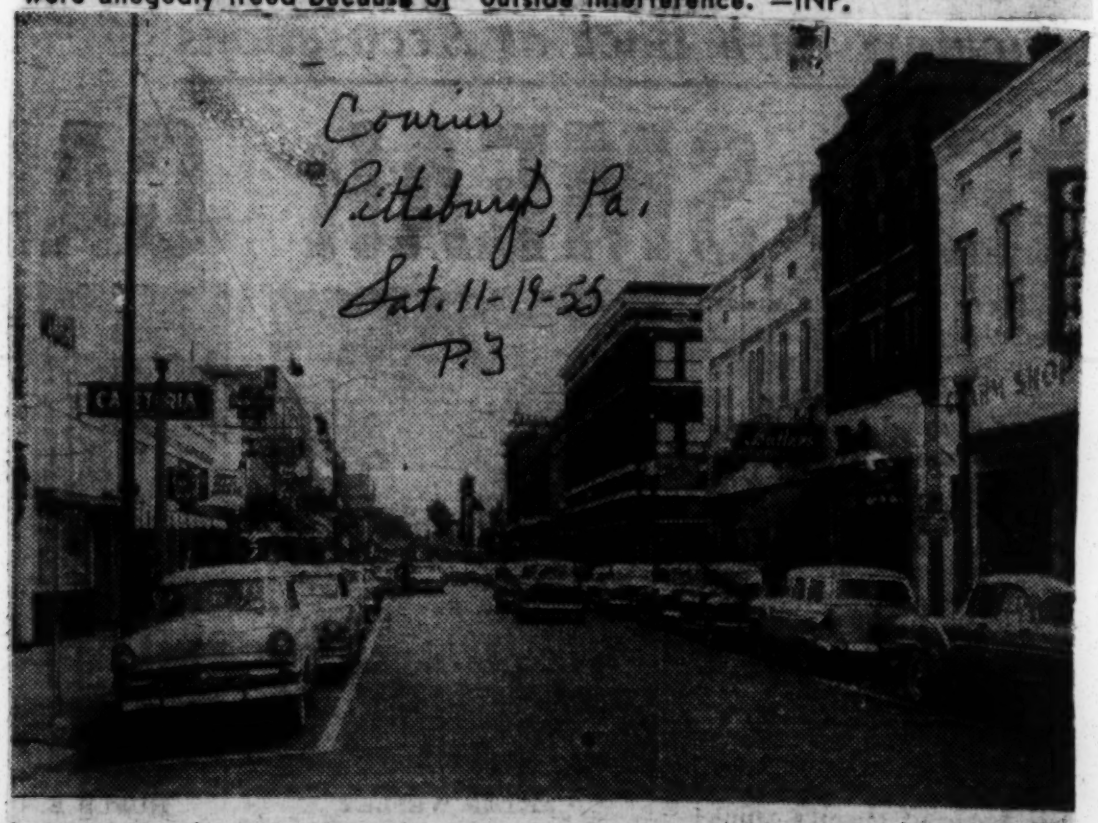
Last week she weepingly told 3,000 in St. Louis that she felt everyone should be told about the horrible crime and the nightmares of the subsequent days.

"I know what a terrible evil race hatred is. I have tried to hate the men who killed my boy. I can't even do that," she said.

Earlier she spoke in Alton and Venice at a mass meeting attended by 2,500. About $2,500 was subscribed for the NAACP at the St. Louis meeting, $1,500 at the Eastside session.



Seat of 'Justice'—This is the LeFlore County Courthouse in Greenwood, Miss., where an all-white grand jury freed a pair of confessed kidnappers in the Emmett Till kidnap-murder case. The men were allegedly freed because of "outside interference."—INP.



Main Street, USA?—Behind this peaceful scene on the "main drag" of Greenwood, Miss., lies an undercurrent of resentment from both white and black citizens in connection with the "whitewashing" of the Emmett Till case. Greenwood's daily paper has urged readers to "forget the Till case."—INP.

MISSISSIPPI SEEKS KIDNAPPING COUNT

Two Men Cleared of Murder of Negro Boy Are Jailed for Grand Jury Action

By JOHN N. POPHAM

Special to The New York Times.

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 24—The State of Mississippi will try to obtain a kidnapping conviction against two white men acquitted by a jury yesterday of the charge that they murdered Emmett Louis Till, 14-year-old Chicago Negro.

Stanny Sanders, district attorney for the Fourth Judicial Circuit, which includes LeFlore County, the scene of the alleged kidnapping, said today that he would present to a grand jury substantially the same evidence that was given at the murder trial.

He said that he would call witnesses as soon as the LeFlore County grand jury convened for its fall session on the first Monday in November. It will be up to the grand jury to decide under which of two criminal statutes the true bill might be returned, he said.

Mississippi has one statute that makes kidnapping a crime punishable by a penitentiary term not exceeding ten years. There is a second statute that makes kidnapping a capital offense. It was adopted after the kidnapping of the infant son of Charles A. Lindbergh.

Death Penalty Possible

This statute calls for punishment of death in the gas chamber or life imprisonment if the jury so recommends. It also provides that if the jury fails to agree on fixing the penalty at death or life imprisonment, the court can impose a penitentiary term of one to thirty years.

The jury in the murder trial was instructed that it could return a verdict calling for death or life imprisonment or for acquittal. Because of the race relations theme in the case, many persons in this area felt that a strong factor in the jury's decision was the penalty aspect.

The two accused men, Roy Bryant, 24 years old, a country storekeeper, and his half-brother, J. W. Milam, 36, were taken into custody by Sheriff George Smith of LeFlore County at the end of yesterday's trial and lodged in LeFlore County jail on an affidavit charging them with kidnapping.

The kidnapping of young Till took place on Aug. 28, at the home of his grand uncle, Moses Wright, in Money, a farming community in LeFlore County. Three days later, the youth's body, bludgeoned and shot in the head, was found in a river in adjoining Tallahatchie County.

Consequently, the Tallahatchie grand jury took jurisdiction of the crime and on Sept. 6 voted an indictment with murder and kidnapping counts. The trial in Sumner, county seat of Tallahatchie County, was only on the murder count.

Charge Dismissed

Immediately after the jury announced its verdict, Circuit Judge Curtis M. Swango granted the prosecution's motion to dismiss the kidnapping count on the ground that the trial evidence established that LeFlore County had proper jurisdiction of the kidnapping charge.

In advance of grand jury action, it was said, Milam and Bryant can apply for release under bond before LeFlore County Judge Charles Pollard.

At the murder trial, Sheriff Smith testified that Bryant told him that he had taken young Till from his grand-uncle's home but that he later had released the boy. Deputy Sheriff John Edd Cathrom testified that Milam told him a similar story.

It was charged that Milam and Bryant kidnapped and murdered Emmett Till because the youth allegedly had made an "indecent proposal" and "wolf-whistled" at Bryant's 21-year-old wife Carolyn while she was alone in her husband's store on Aug. 24.

Disclosure of the crime resulted in widespread expressions of outrange throughout Mississippi and strong criticisms of the State's white supremacy practices from other sections of the country. In turn, many segments of Mississippi voiced anger at what they termed "outside meddling," which developed a climate of "resentment" in Tallahatchie County.

At the time the case first came to public attention, it was widely believed in thie area that the accused men would face a "tough" climate in LeFlore County, which is far more urbanized than Tallahatchie County.

Attorney General Satisfied

Attorney General J. P. Coleman, Democratic nominee for Mississippi's Governorship next year, said of the jury's verdict in the murder trial "the State of Mississippi discharged its full duty."

Gov. Hugh White said "we did all we could do."

Meanwhile, Moses Wright, 64-year-old Negro sharecropper who stood in the Tallahatchie County court room last Wednesday and pointed out Milam and Bryant as the kidnappers, had returned to his twenty-five-acre cottom farm.

Mrs. Mamie Bradley, 33-year-old mother of Emmett Till, who came here from Chicago to testify at the trial, returned to her civil service job in that city. Willie Reed, 19-year-old Negro student, whose testimony was described by the prosecution as "courageous," was taken to Chicago by Representative Charles C. Diggs Jr., Democrat of Michigan, for "a vacation."

In Sumner, a town of about 500 persons, the streets were crowded with Saturday shoppers from the area cotton farms. Negroes and whites formed their customary separate groupings on the Court House Square under the shady oak trees hard by the Confederate monument. One of the town's elders said this:

"Sumner sure made a name in the world this week."

Witness to Move North

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 24 (UP)—Mr. Wright disclosed today he planned to leave the South.

The gray-haired sharecropper will move to Albany, N. Y. He said he had been offered a "lifetime" job by a white nurseryman. Mr. Wright, who was referred to by both sides in the trial as "Uncle Mose," has lived his whole life in the South.

TILL'S UNCLE TO VISIT FRIENDS IN CHICAGO

Mose Wright Says He'll Attend Kidnap Hearing

Special to The Commercial Appeal

GREENWOOD, Miss., Sept. 26.—The uncle of Emmett L. Till said Monday he is going to Chicago but will be back in Greenwood Nov. 1 when the LeFlore County Grand Jury convenes.

Sheriff George Smith said Mose Wright, 64-year-old Money farmer, came to see him Monday. Wright said he will be back in November "and you won't even have to issue a subpena for me," the sheriff reported.

The November Grand Jury is scheduled to consider kidnap indictments against two white men, Roy Bryant of Money and J. W. Milam of Glendora.

The men are charged with taking Till, 14-year-old Chicago Negro, from the Wright home Aug. 28. Bryant and Milam were acquitted last week in Tallahatchie County of murder charges. A body identified as that of Till was found in the Tallaratchie River Aug. 31.

Meanwhile, a Middle Island, N. Y., nurseryman, Baier Lustgarten, said he has offered Wright a job and living quarters. He said he wrote Wright he would pay his way north, but had received no reply.

Sheriff Smith said Wright did not detail his future plans.

KIDNAP HEARING DATE 'AT LEAST' BY FRIDAY

3,000 in New York Rally Call For March To Mississippi

(Picture and Additional Story on Page Four)

Special to The Commercial Appeal

GREENWOOD, Miss., Sept. 25.—A preliminary hearing for Roy Bryant 24-year-old Money, Miss., storekeeper and his half brother, J. W. Milam, 36, of Glendora, will be held the latter part of this week, Dist. Atty. Stanny Sanders said Sunday.

The two men, acquitted in Tallahatchie County Friday on charges of slaying a 14-year-old Chicago Negro, Emmett L. Till, are being held in LeFlore County here on kidnap charges.

Bryant and Milam were jailed here Aug. 29 one day after Till was taken from the home of his uncle, Mose Wright, at Money.

County Judge Charles Pollard, who will preside over the hearing, said the men may be brought before him Friday. The hearing might be held a day or two earlier, he said, if records of last week's trial at Sumner arrive. Bond is expected to be set at the hearing.

Mamie Bradley, mother of Till who appeared Sunday in New York City at a "protest" rally, told the United Press she was not molested while in Sumner last week, but men would pretend they were shooting at her and yell "bang, bang," while others laughed.

Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, asked the rally, "What's to be done about it?"

The audience of 3,000 began chanting:

"March, march, march."

Wilkins laughed and said "if you marched we'd lose most of you before you got to South Ferry," the lower tip of Manhattan. "It is time to stop being emotional and be smart," he said.

Mississippi Jury Acquits 2 Accused in Youth's Killing

By JOHN N. POPHAM

Special to The New York Times.

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 23—Two Mississippi white men accused of the kidnap-murder of Emmett Louis Till, 14-year-old Chicago Negro, were acquitted today. A jury of twelve white neighbors reached the verdict after one hour and five minutes of deliberation.

Roy Bryant, 24-year-old country store keeper, and his half-brother, J. W. Milam, 36, both born and reared in Tallahatchie County, where the trial was held, greeted the verdict by embracing their wives, lighting up cigars and posing for photographs while relatives and friends extended congratulations.

The trial concerned only the murder count of the indictment that was voted on Sept. 6 by a Tallahatchie County grand jury after Emmett's dead body was found within the county's jurisdiction. The boy allegedly was seized forcibly from his grand-uncle's home in adjoining LeFlore County four days after the youth reportedly had "insulted" Bryant's wife in the family store.

Kidnap Action Awaits

Immediately after the jury verdict was filed with the clerk of the court, Circuit Judge Curtis M. Swango granted the prosecution's motion to dismiss the kidnapping count on the ground that evidence in the trial clearly established that LeFlore County had proper jurisdiction in the kidnapping case.

Robert B. Smith 3d, special prosecutor for the morder trial, said that Bryant and Milam, who have been in custody without bail one the murder charge, would be turned over to LeFlore County law enforcement officers tonight to face a sworn affidavit on kidnapping charges before a justice of the peace in Greenwood.

Mr. Smith said that in all likelihood the justice of the peace would set a bond under which the two men could be held to await possible indictment on the kidnapping evidence by the LeFlore grand jury which meets in November.

The jury received the case for deliberation at 2:35 P. M. local time. At 3:40 P. M. they filed out of the jury room and stood in the jury box. At 3:43 P. M., the foreman, J. A. Shaw Jr., a farmer of Webb, two miles from Sumner, announced that the decision was "not guilty."

The courtroom's 250 seats were occupied, with about forty Negroes sitting in the customarily segregated section at the rear, and with some ten or twelve Negro press representatives at a table near the railing. About fifteen people were standing at the front entrance of the courtroom and about twenty-five persons were standing along the walls.

There was no commotion or excitement when the verdict was announced. Two persons at the door turned and ran down the steps to spread the message to those standing on the sidewalk and the courthouse lawn.

The first break in the calm came as photographers began to converge on the defendants and request that they pose for pictures. The defendants and their wives, sitting on chairs just inside the railing were completely composed and smiled faintly as they embraced at the request of camera men. A few minutes later both men lighted cigars and stood up for more pictures.

Three Ballots Taken

Milam said "I'm happy with

the outcome" and his wife, Juanita, added "I was scared, but sure of the verdict." Bryant replied "I'm glad to get loose" and his wife, Carolyn, said "I'm real happy at the result."

Mr. Shaw, who was chosen by the rest of the jurors as their spokesman, said that the jury had taken three ballots. He said the first vote was nine for acquittal, with three not voting, the second was ten for acquittal with two not voting and the third was unanimous for acquittal.

He said that the principal item that led to the verdict was "the belief that there had been no identification of the dead body as that of Emmett Till." Defense attorneys had centered their attack on the contention that the dead body was not identified beyond a reasonable doubt as Till.

The jurors, Mr. Shaw said, had studied the photograph of the dead body that was made by a police photographer a day after it was taken from the Tallahatchie River, bludgeoned and shot in the head. Mr. Shaw said the jury "felt the body was too badly decomposed to be identified."

Asked what the jury thought of the testimony of Emmet's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley, who said the body was definitely that of her son and who also identified a rign taken from the body as belonging to her son, Mr. Shaw replied "if she had tried a little harder, she might have got out a tear."

During her testimony on the witness stand, Mrs. Bradley, when shown the photograph of the dead body, removed her glasses and wiped at her eyes.

The jury had been instructed that it could return any of four verdicts. These were guilty as charged, which carries a mandatory sentence of death in the gas chamber; guilty with recommendation for life imprisonment; guilty with a stipulation that the jury cannot agree on fixing the penalty, in which case the law requires the judge to impose life imprisonment, and acquittal.

For practical purposes, therefore, the jury was faced with three decisions, death in the gas chamber, life imprisonment or acquittal. The Mississippi statutes do not provide for degrees of murder with varying punishment. There is a manslaughter statute with penalty ranging up to twenty years, but it applies to a killing in the heat of passion and without premeditation and therefore was not cited in the jury instructions.

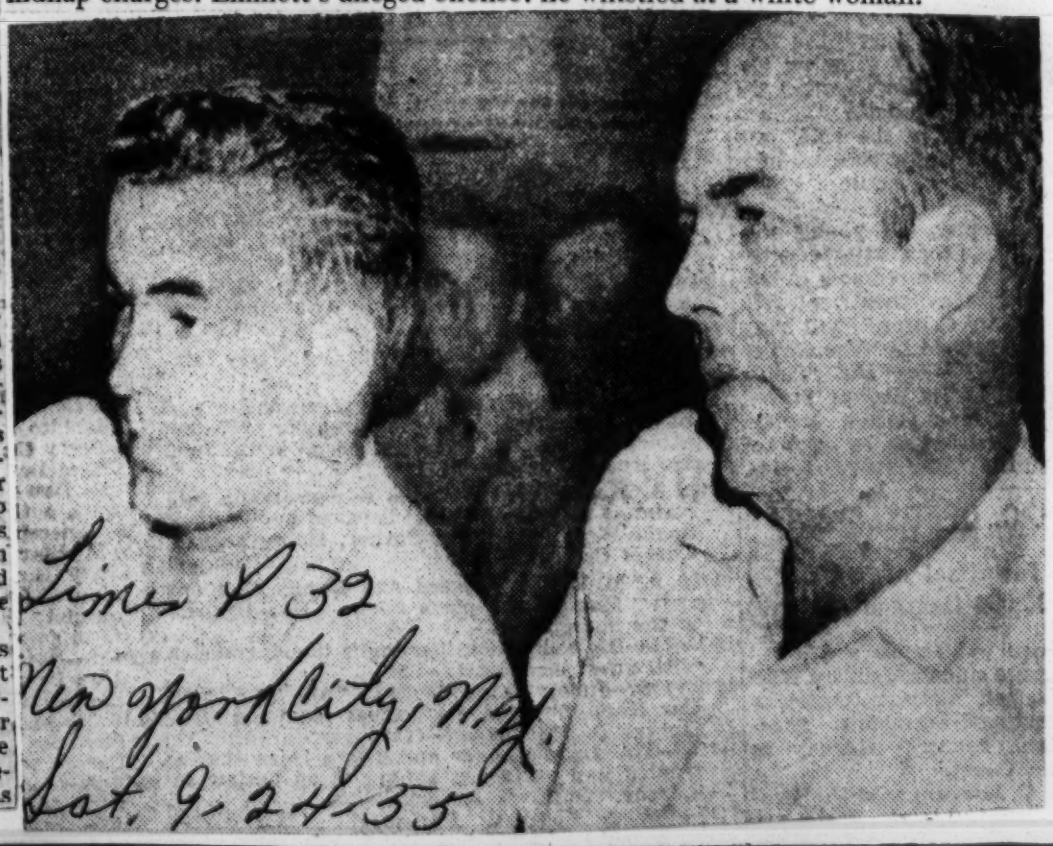
Because of the race relations factors involved in this case it was widely predicted that a verdict carrying either a death or a life imprisonment sentence was most unlikely to be returned by the jury. This was regarded by many as the major factor underlying the jury's action.



Life p. 47 Mon. 9-12-55

HOMECOMING OF A LYNCH VICTIM

A grief-torn mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley, received in Chicago the body of her son, Emmett Till, 14. Visiting on a farm near Greenwood, Miss., he had been dragged from his bed, beaten and slain. Mississippi's governor deplored the deed and local authorities arrested two white men on kidnap charges. Emmett's alleged offense: he whistled at a white woman.



Time p. 32
New York City, N.Y.
Sat. 9-24-55

ACQUITTED OF NEGRO'S MURDER: Roy Bryant, left, and J. W. Milam as they appeared yesterday in court room in Sumner, Miss. The jury took one hour and five minutes to agree on their innocence in the slaying of 14-year-old Emmett Louis Till of Chicago.

'Were Never Into Meaness' - Says Accused Men's Mother

Comm. Appeal
Fri. 9-2-55
P. 1

Special to The Commercial Appeal

SHARKEY, Miss., Sept. 1.—A graying, worried mother bit her lips Thursday in this community's lone store as she talked about two of her sons who face charges in the slaying of Emmett Till, a Negro youth.

"They were never into any meanness," said Mrs. Eula Lee Bryant, adding, "I raised them and I'll stand by them."

She stopped her work in the store to show family photographs of her eight sons and three daughters. In the collection were pictures of Roy Bryant of Money, Miss., and his half-brother, J. W. Milam of Minter, Miss. They wore uniforms.

"Roy, who's 22, spent three years in the paratroops," Mrs. Bryant said. "J. W. was a lieutenant in the Army. He served in Germany during World War II. He's 36."

Won Purple Heart

Mrs. Bryant said Milam entered service as a private, where he won a Purple Heart and other honors.

"He got his commission the hard way," she added.

Mrs. Milam and her two small sons were with Mrs. Bryant in her country store, about five miles north of Glendora in Tallahatchie County.

"He's an ideal father," Mrs. Milam said. "The children worship him. And all the Negroes at Glendora (where he owned a store until it was destroyed by fire last year) liked him like a father. They always came to him for help."

Both Bryant and Milam have two young sons, all under 4 years of age. The Milam children were playing in the store.

Roy Bryant has a twin brother in Memphis, Raymond Bryant of 1433 Willett.

Mrs. Bryant said her sons were born in Charleston, Miss., and attended the Baptist Church there as youths. They also lived at Tutwiler, Miss., at one time.

"You could never tell they were half-brothers," she said, "unless they told you."

Has Battle Scar

She said the family liked to get together almost every week end for supper and fellowship. Mrs. Bryant said the boys were always liked wherever they lived.

Mrs. Milam said her husband bears a big scar on his left chest and back from war wounds.

"They had to take out 27 pieces of shrapnel," she said.

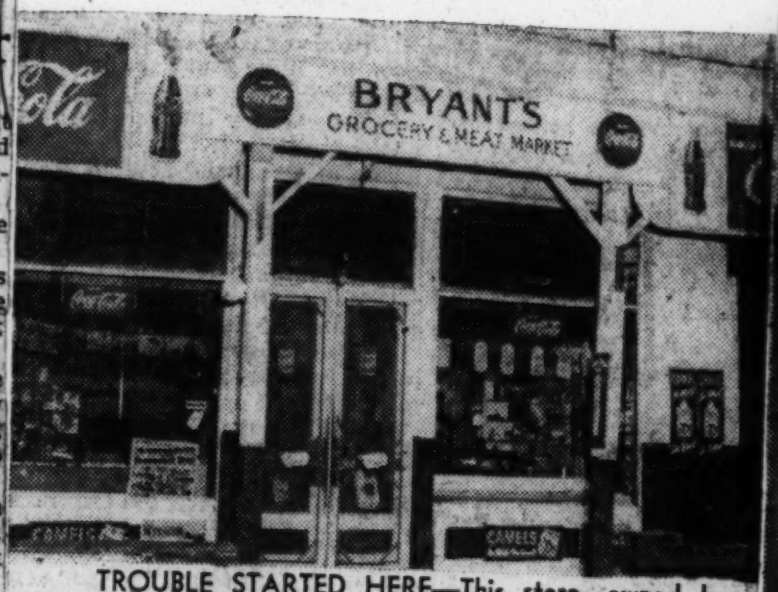
Milam is a big man. He stands six feet, two inches and weighs about 220 pounds. Bryant is about six feet.

Mrs. Bryant said seven of the eight boys have been in military service. Recalling happier hours, she said all of them liked to hunt and fish.

An apartment is maintained in the back of the store. Mrs. Bryant said she had operated it for more than two years.

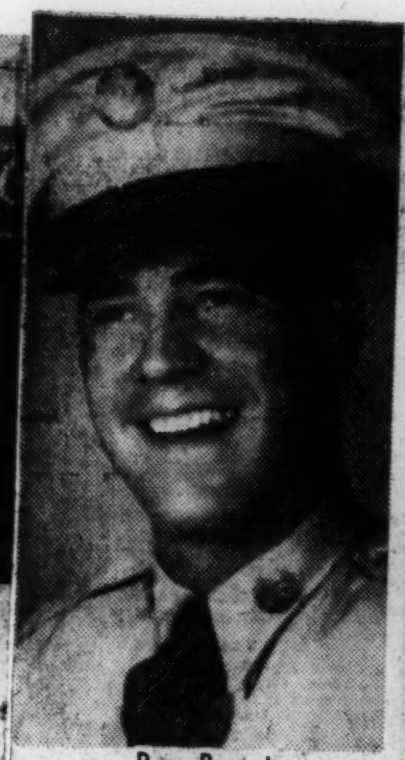
In nearby Glendora, many citizens spoke highly of the boys.

"I've never heard anything against them," said Elmer Kimball, a gin operator. "I haven't known them too long but they've all been nice to me."



TROUBLE STARTED HERE—This store, owned by Roy Bryant of Money, one of two white men held in Till's death, was where the Chicago Negro youth's troubles started. He reportedly whistled and made some remarks to Bryant's wife the night of Aug. 24. Bryant said he had a part in taking the youth from the Wright home but released him unharmed.

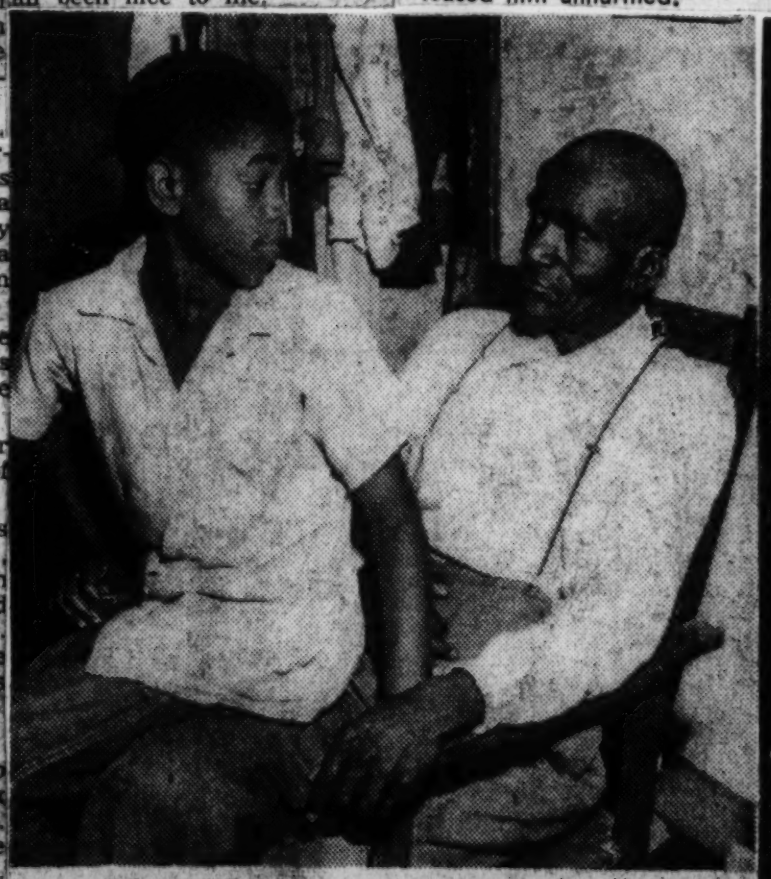
(Story on Page One)



Roy Bryant



J. W. Milam



RELATIVES OF VICTIM—Mose Wright of Money, Miss., uncle of the slain youth, and his son, Simeon Wright, told how two white men came to their home early Sunday morning and took Emmett Till away.



USED IN SLAYING—Deputy Sheriff John Ed Cothran of Greenwood, Miss., yesterday examined a big cotton gin fan used to weight down a Negro boy whose body was found Wednesday in the Tallahatchie River.

PROBE IS ASKED IN BOY'S KILLING

Time Picayune
Gov. White Calls for Investigation of Slaying
Fri. 9-2-55

GREENWOOD, Miss., Sept. 1 (AP)—The governor of Mississippi today called for a complete investigation of the kidnap-killing of a bubble-gum-chewing Negro youth who allegedly wolf-whistled at a white woman.

Gov. Hugh White told newsmen, "Mississippi deplores such conduct on the part of any of its citizens and certainly can not condone it."

In a telegram to the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People in New York, the governor said: "Parties charged with the murder are in jail. I have every reason to believe that the court will do their duty in prosecution."

New Orleans, La.

Bullet Killed Boy

A bullet behind the ear killed 15-year-old Emmitt Louis Till soon after he was taken early Sunday morning from the tenant farm home of his uncle Mose Wright. The kidnaping came a few hours after Till was reported to have whistled the two notes of the wolf call at Mrs. Roy Bryant, wife of a white storekeeper near Money, Miss., deep in the Delta plantation country.

The storekeeper and his half-brother, J. W. Milam of Glendora, Miss., are held in Leflore County jail in connection with the kidnaping and slaying.

Authorities issued a kidnap warrant for the arrest of Mrs. Bryant, who was not at her Money home today.

A 16-year-old cousin of the dead boy, Maurice Wright, told newsmen today about the incident which preceded Till's death. He said the Chicago youth wolf-whistled at Mrs. Bryant when a group of Negro lads went to the store for bubble-gum.

'Just Laughed'

"When he came out of the store, I told him, 'Boy, you know better than that.' He just laughed."

Maurice said later, when two or three white men and a white woman came to his father's home, Mose Wright pleaded with the kidnapers not to take Emmitt away.

"Just take him out in the yard and whip him and I'll be satisfied," the uncle said.

Bryant has maintained to authorities that he released the boy later.

Yesterday the boy's body, battered and weighted with metal from a cotton gin, was found in the Tallahatchie River about 25 miles north of Greenwood across the line in Tallahatchie County. Authorities said they do not know where the killing took place, but the Tallahatchie grand jury was expected to get the case by Monday.

Connection Denied

Robert Patterson, executive secretary of the Assn. of Citizens Councils—groups organized to keep segregation in all walks of life—termed the youth's death "regrettable."

He emphasized that it was not in any way connected with prosegregation groups.

"One of the primary reasons for our organization is to prevent acts of violence," he said. "We are doing our best in spite of constant agitation and inflammatory statements by the NAACP and outside agitators."

In New York, Roy Wilkins, NAACP executive secretary, said Mississippi "has decided to maintain white supremacy by murdering children."

Dist. Atty. Gerald Chatham said in Hernando, Miss., the grand jury should consider the cases of Bryant and Milam by Tuesday at the latest. He said the trials—if the grand jury indicts—most likely will be held next March.

Jerseyans all out for NAACP

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.
Sat. 10-22-55

- Till's murder shocks many into action
- Memberships, freedom fund



—WIREPHOTO by The Associated Press

THE UNCLE AND COUSIN of slain Emmett Louis Till sit in their Money, Miss., home, from which the boy was taken by two men. They are Mose Wright and his son, Simeon. The body of Till, who had allegedly insulted a white woman, was found in the Tallahatchie river. There was a bullet wound in the head.

gifts larger

By SAMUEL HAYNES

In keeping with a national trend, the citizens of New Jersey of divers races, nationalities and creeds, are rallying to the support of the NAACP as never before in the wake of the Mississippi infamy.

Last week, Jimmy Hicks' heart-pulsing "Unbelievable" expose—first in a series of four articles—in the AFRO on the inside story of the trial of two white men acquitted on charges of kidnapping and lynching Emmett Louis Till, 14, rocked the state.

Demands for copies of the AFRO from white and colored people alike across the state could not be filled after Friday.

* * *

HERE'S HOW Jerseyans have reacted to the reign of terror in Mississippi against colored people who insist on their right to vote culminating in three murders capped by young Till's lynching:

Freedom Fund contributions and new memberships for the Newark Branch NAACP came pouring into the AFRO's office by telephone, letters and personal visits.

Among new $500 life memberships obtained in Newark was one from the Batons, an organization of law enforcement and probation officers in Essex County.

* * *

SO MANY WORKING people, men, women and youths, came to the AFRO's office to volunteer their services in soliciting new members and Freedom Fund donations on their jobs, that we had to call in the NAACP president to take care of them.

President Theodore Pettigrew, Mrs. Grace Fenderson, board chairman; and Francis Hoggard, membership chairman, all reported that they had been compelled to cancel their evening and night engagements in the last two weeks to answer telephone calls and talk to volunteer workers who flocked to their homes.

Friday, 1,500 persons taxed the capacity of Ebenezer Baptist Church in New Brunswick, and 300 others listened in via amplifiers in the basement at a Freedom Fund rally.

* * *

MRS. MAMIE BRADLEY of Chicago, mother of Emmett Till, was the guest speaker.

She said she intends to devote the rest of her life to help eradicate the conditions in Mississippi that made her son's lynching possible.

Mrs. Bradley added: "I want to make the Southern states, or any state where such a thing can happen, sick unto their souls."

* * *

ON SUNDAY, 2,000 persons overflowed St. Marks Methodist Church in Montclair at a Till protest meeting sponsored by the NAACP Branch.

Herbert Hill, a representative from the national office, criticized the Justice Department and the titular heads of the Republican and Democratic parties for their failure to take a stand in the Till case.

8777

NAACP Asks FBI Protection At Mississippi Protest Meet

BELZONI, Miss., May 21 (AP) — The National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People today asked the U.S. Department of Justice to protect it at a meeting in Belzoni tomorrow where Negroes will protest handling of the [illegible] slaying and civil rights leader.

In Washington, the Justice Department asked the FBI to investigate the death. Arthur Caldwell, chief of the department's civil rights section, said he could not comment on the case until he saw the FBI report.

Local law enforcement has broken down in many places and federal aid is needed, the NAACP wired Atty. Gen. Herbert Brownell.

"In some sections of the state, the pretense of law enforcement officers to protect Negro citizens has collapsed since the advent of the white Citizens Council," the telegram said.

Citizens Councils are white groups organized to keep segregation in all walks of life.

Sheriff Ike Shelton said the Negroes would not be bothered unless they break the law. "If they don't violate any laws, it's o.k., but we haven't done anything wrong and we're not going to let them take the town."

The NAACP claims the Rev. George W. Lee was murdered because he tried to get Negroes to vote in Humphreys County, in the heart of the agricultural Delta where Negroes outnumber whites. Shelton agreed the Baptist minister was slain by a shotgun blast, but said another Negro probably did it. The Rev. Lee was known as a "lady's man," the sheriff commented.

A coroner's jury could not decide what caused the minister's death.

Lee was found dying in his wrecked car which crashed into a house in Belzoni's Negro section. Officers first assumed the collision caused the fatal injuries.

Closer inspection showed some bits of metal around Lee's face. The FBI laboratory said they were "similar in weight and composition to No. 3 buckshot."

Dr. A. H. McCoy, Negro dentist who is president of the Mississippi NAACP, declared, "We believe his (Lee's) death to have come by the hands of those who would keep us in slavery."

Shelton called the unsolved killing "one of the most puzzling" cases he has ever handled.

FBI agents checked to see if any civil rights had been violated in handling the case, which could make it a federal case. "They didn't find anything because there is nothing to be found" on that score, Sheriff Shelton said.

The U.S. Department of Justice also has entered the investigation.

Lee's car crashed into a house the night of May 7. He suffered face and neck injuries which proved fatal.

Some witnesses said a car pulled alongside Lee's car shortly before the crash. Some said they heard two shots just before the crash. Others said a tire blowout caused the shot-like sounds.

The sheriff said he has checked every car answering the description of the one which pulled up beside Lee. "But they (car owners) have all had alibis," he said.

NAACP LEADER SLAIN, DIXIE SHERIFF SAYS

BELZONI, Miss.—(INS)—A Mississippi Sheriff said Wednesday that a Negro Civil Rights Leader thought to have perished in an automobile accident was a murder victim.

Sheriff T. J. Shelton of Belzoni, along with other authorities, had previously said the Negro, Lee was killed in an automobile crash.

Lee's body was found in the crashed car in Belzoni on May 7.

Subsequently, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People charged that he was murdered because he had urged Negroes to vote.

The NAACP demanded Gov. Hugh White to initiate a full investigation into the death.

Meanwhile, a Negro dentist, Dr. A. H. McCoy of Jackson, conducted his own investigation and after examining Lee's body said the Baptist minister was killed by shotgun pellets.

Belzoni authorities said they thought the pieces of lead found in Lee's mouth were parts of teeth fillings. Nevertheless, Sheriff Shelton sent the particles to a laboratory for testing.

Shelton said Wednesday, "the lab test showed that the lead was shotgun pellets. I'm convinced that he was shot to death."

Shelon had no further comment to make until after a coroner's jury issues a verdict. The jury probably will meet today, the sheriff said.

In its charge that Lee was murdered, the NAACP said several persons heard what sounded like shots shortly befoer the automobile crashed.

N. J. Ministers Also Condemn Miss. Lynching

NEWARK N. J.— The Baptist Ministers' Conference of Newark and vicinity last week passed a resolution condemning the brutal slaying of Rev. George W. Lee in Belzoni, Miss., and blasting the governor of Mississippi for his failure to act in the case.

The resolution said in part:

"Rev. Lee's only crime was planting in the hearts of the people whom he served the sacred teaching of our Lord that 'all men are created equal in the sight of God' and by this token should act as brothers."

Terming the fatal shooting as damnable, inhuman, indecent and inexcusable act, the ministers gave credit to the FBI for its probe and attempt to restore activity in the area to normal.

Rev. J. Vance McIver is president of the minister' conference; Rev. Sterling E. Gover, secretary.

Belzoni Man Tells Story To FBI Agents in East St. Louis; Search Continues

New York—An eyewitness to the fatal shooting of the Rev. George W. Lee in Belzoni, Miss., on May 7, told FBI agents in East St. Louis, Ill., what he had seen that night, according to information received here by Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The witness, Alex Hudson, was located in East St. Louis by the NAACP. He had left Mississippi a week after the killing. Billy Jones, an East St. Louis lawyer and president of the Illinois State NAACP, accompanied the witness to the FBI office where the Mississippian told his story.

Hudson says that he was sitting with a friend when the Rev. Mr. Lee's car passed. He saw another car overtake that of the clergyman and heard the shots fired from the second car. Rev. Lee's car swerved off the road and crashed into a house while the other car disappeared in the darkness.

Wilkins at Memorial

The NAACP, Mr. Wilkins said May 26, is tracing other witnesses in the hope of securing the arrest and conviction of the slayers.

At a memorial service held in Belzoni on May 22, the NAACP executive assured 400 Negro leaders from all over the state of continued NAACP support in the fight for the ballot, for justice and for desegregation of the public schools. "We expect to stay in Mississippi for the duration—until victory is won," he said.

Mr. Wilkins lauded the slain clergyman as a courageous man who "fought for equality and first-class citizenship for himself and for his people." He was killed, the NAACP leader charged, "because he thought he ought to vote just like other Americans. Someone threatened him and told him he should withdraw his name from the registration lists. He refused to do this because he was an American and Americans have the right to vote."

Real Reason

Citing election figures, Mr. Wilkins declared: "In Mississippi there is a real reason for your effort to vote. . . Although there were 710,000 whites of voting age and 497,000 Negroes, only 285,000 votes were cast in the 1952 election. How many of these were Negroes we do not know, but we do know that Negro registration was only about 20,000. So Negroes had practically no vote of consequence in 1952 and now they are trying to take even that little away from you."

Witness to Murder Located in Illinois

SEE FRONT PAGE

The NAACP spokesman compared a congressional district in Mississippi with one in California, each with a total populaton of 365,000. In the Mississippi district only 57,600 votes were cast in the congressional electioin of 1952, as compared with 175,200 votes in the California district.

"What does this mean?" he asked. "It means that Mississippi does not have a government system that gives representation to all the people only to a small part of them. It means that not only Negroes, but tens of thousands of whites are prevented from voting."

Cites Sufficient Evidence To Warrant Investigation

WASHINGTON — (SNS) — Friday the Justice Department revealed that the Federal Bureau of Investigation has launched a "full scale" investigation into the mysterious death of the militant Belzoni, Miss. minister, the Rev. G. W. Lee who was killed under mysterious circumstances May 7.

The announcement was made by Justice Department Public Relations Director G. Frederick Mullen, who explained that a preliminary FBI probe had turned up enough information to worrant a full investigation.

The militant Belzoni minister, who allegedly was threatened for not reemoving his name from the voter registers list and for urging other Belzoni Negroes to register and vote, died May 7 en route to a hospital after his crashed into a house on Church Street in Belzoni.

It has been conjectured that Rev. Lee lost control of his car after being shot from a shotgun fired by three white men in a convertible car. Small lead pellets found in the facial wounds of the Rev. Mr. Lee in an examination by two Negro doctors were sent to Washington and later analyzed as shot gun pellets.

The slaying of the Belzoni minister has been attributed to the work of the white so-called Citizens Councils in Mississippi. Mississippi state NAACP president, Dr. A. H. McCoy of Jackson, placed direct blame on the councils although Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the NAACP at the mass meeting held in Belzoni protesting the slaying of Rev. Lee, declined to place direct blame on the citizens councils but inferred their actions possibly led to the slaying.

FBI LAUNCHES FULL PROBE IN DEATH OF REV. GEORGE LEE

8778

Civil Liberties League Asks Probe Of Mississippi Killing

NEW YORK—The American Civil Liberties Union (May 20) called on the Department of Justice to conduct an "immediate and full-scale" investigation into the murder of the Rev. G. W. Lee in Belzoni, Miss.

The Rev. Lee, a local leader of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, was slain on May 7. A car drew near as the clergyman's automobile approached his home and three shotgun blasts were fired which ripped off the bottom part of his face.

According to newspaper reports, published today which disclosed the slaying, the Rev. Lee was the first Negro to register to vote in Humphreys County, Miss., and on the day of his death informed another Negro minister that "someone at the court house" had warned him to remove his name from the voting list. The Rev. Lee replied that he intended to vote despite the threats.

In a telegram to Attorney General Brownell, ACLU executive director Patrick Murphy Malin said that a federal inquiry was warranted to "determine if a violation of the Federal Civil Rights Act has occurred because of the distinct possibility that the Rev. Lee was murdered due to his intention to use his constitutional right of franchise.

CONGRESS ASKED TO PROBE LYNCHING OF NEGRO IN DIXIE

Senate Committee Asked to Inquire Into Death of NAACP Executive in Mississippi

WHITES TERRORIZE BLACKS IN BELZONI

WASHINGTON — (ANP) — NAACP officials made an urgent appeal to Congress for protection of Negroes in Mississippi after the "lynching" of a crusading Baptist minister.

Clarence Mitchell, director, Washington NAACP bureau, appeared before the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections and made a plea for protection for Mississippi Negroes after Gov. Hugh White snubbed NAACP requests for an investigation of the gangline style shooting.

Meanwhile, more than 1,000 persons from all over the state poured into Belzoni, a town of 8,000, for funeral services for Rev. George Lee, who was ambushed and fatally wounded by three shotgun blasts from a car carrying several whites. It is reported that a Negro rode in with the white men, serving as a finger man.

Rev. W. W. Walden, Chicago, who commutes to Mississippi to preach, conducted services for Rev. Lee outdoors because the slain minister's church could not hold the throng. Rev. Walden said Mississippi ministers have started a reward fund for the apprehension of Rev. Lee's "lynchers."

The "lynching" was the culminating point in a series of atrocities committed against the Negro community which included the breaking of car windows and raiding of the Negro Elks club.

Rev. Lee was reportedly the first on a list of three Belzoni Negroes that the Citizens Council voted to make examples of. The other two are T. V. Johnson, a local undertaker, and Cuss Courts, grocery store operator, now under severe economic pressure from the council.

The Lee slaying is the state's first "lynching" since 1949 and perhaps the gravest act of violence since the formation of the Citizens Councils.

The last lynching in the state occurred in 1949 when Mancnie Wright, 45, Houston, Miss., was shot to death by a group of whites when he did not get out of a road fast enough to satisfy them.

Last reported lynching in the U. S. was in 1952 when Melvin Wonlack, Orange County, Florida, was forced from his home and beaten to death. Since 1900, a total of 1,987 lynchings have been recorded. Of these, 195 were white, 1,792 were Negroes.

Rev. Lee is survived by his widow, Mrs. Rosebud Lee.

One witness to Mississippi preacher's murder found

NEW YORK — An eyewitness to the fatal shooting of the Rev. George W. Lee in Belzoni, Miss., May 7, has told FBI agents in East St. Louis, Ill., what he saw that night, according to the Naacp.

The witness, Alex Hudson, left Mississippi a week after the killing. Emmett Jones, a barber and president of the Illinois Naacp, accompanied Hudson to the FBI office.

Hudson told the FBI that he was sitting with a friend when the Rev. Mr. Lee's car passed. He saw another car overtake the clergyman's and heard the shots fired from the second car. Rev. Lee's car swerved off the road and crashed into a house while the other car disappeared in the darkness.

At first, officials attempted to dismiss the death as a mere traffic accident. But Naacp clamor, plus discovery of bits of lead about the dead man's face pushed the probe.

The Naacp is tracing other witnesses in the hope of securing the arrest and conviction of the slayers.

WILKINS IN MISSISSIPPI

At a memorial service in Belzoni May 22, Naacp executive Ray Wilkins assured 400 state Negro leaders of continued support in the fight for the ballot and for desegregation of the public schools. "We expect to stay in Mississippi for the duration—until victory is won," he said.

Wilkins lauded the slain clergyman as a courageous man who "fought for equality and first-class citizenship for himself and for his people." He was killed, the Naacp leader charged, "because he thought he ought to vote just like other Americans. Someone threatened him and told him he should withdraw his name from the registration lists. He refused to do this because he had the right to vote."

Wilkins said that, "In Mississippi there is a real reason for your effort to vote . . . Although there were 710,000 whites of voting age and 497,000 Negroes, only 285,000 votes were cast in the 1952 election. How many of these were Negro we do not know, but we do know that Negro registration was only about 20,000. So Negroes had practically no vote of consequence in 1952 and now they are trying to take even that little away from you."

The Naacp spokesman compared a congressional district in Mississippi with one in California, each with a population of 365,000. In the Mississippi district, only 51,600 votes were cast in 1952, as compared with 175,200 votes in the California district.

"This means that Mississippi does not give representation to all the people, only to a small part of them. It means that not only Negroes, but tens of thousands of whites are prevented from voting."

Two Flee Mississippi In Wake Of Minister's Death

BELZONI, Miss. — (ANP) — Two persons who knew the Rev. George W. Lee have left the state in the wake of the minister's death, which many consider a lynching.

Living elsewhere is Alex Hudson, reportedly an eyewitness to the death of Rev. Lee, and the Rev. James H. Hargrove, a friend of Rev. Lee.

Hudson left Mississippi a week after the killing. He turned up last week in East St. Louis, Ill., where he talked to FBI agents. He said that on May 7, the night Rev. Lee was shotgun blasted, he was sitting with a friend when Rev. Lee's car passed.

Hudson said he saw another auto overtake that of the fighting clergyman and heard shots fired from the second car. Rev. Lee's auto then swerved off the road and crashed into a house while the other auto disappeared in the darkness.

Meanwhile, Rev. Hargrove said he left Mississippi after attending the victim's funeral last week. Describing himself as a solicitor for the NAACP in Mileston, Miss., his hometown, Rev. Hargrove said he left after a friend told him of overhearing two white men say Hargrove "was likely to follow Rev. Lee if he didn't quit working for the NAACP."

The minister has been having his troubles lately. His credit had been frozen since the first of the year although it had always been good in the past. He said he was burdened with a mortgage covering hidden expenses and cotton ginning services he never received.

In leaving his home, the minister left his wife, Mamie, and their 10 daughters.

The Rev. Lee, whose death touched off a chain of events, was active in trying to get Negroes to vote in Belzoni. Although there were 710,000 whites of voting age and 497,000 Negroes, only 285,000 votes were cast in the 1952 election. How many of these were Negro is not known; however, it is known that Negro registration was only about 20,000.

In commenting on this situation at memorial services held for Rev. Lee last week, Roy Wilkins of the NAACP said:

"What does this mean? It means that Mississippi does not have a government system that gives representation to all the people, only to a small part of them. It means that not only Negroes, but tens of thousands of whites are prevented from voting."

Belzoni Man Tells His Story to FBI Agents In East St. Louis, Illinois

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Citing election figures, Mr. Wilkins declared: "In Mississippi there is a real reason for your effort to vote . . . Although there were 710,000 whites of voting age and 497,000 Negroes, only 285,000 votes were cast in the 1952 election. How many of these were Negro not know, but we do know that Negro registration was only about 20,000. So Negroes had practically no vote of consequence in 1952 and now they are trying to take even that little away from you."

Mr. Wilkins compared a congressional district in Mississippi with one in California, each with a total population of 385,000. In Mississippi district only 31,600 votes were cast in the congressional election of 1952, as compared with 175,000 votes in the California district.

"What does this mean?" he asked. "It means that Mississippi does not have a government sys-

This Killing No Lynching

A BOY HAS BEEN KILLED in Mississippi. It is the earnest hope of all decent persons that the killers, whoever they may be, are convicted. They should receive the ultimate punishment for the cowardly and brutal crime. Journal

This would be the story, and the end of the story, except for one fact. The boy was a Negro. P, 14

Two men have been arrested and charged with kidnaping. We do not mean to prejudge the arrested men, nor in any way to imply their guilt of any crime. These matters are for the courts, and solely for the courts. Atlanta, Ga.

The discovery of the boy's body indicates that there was murder.

A distinction, which is being overlooked, is the distinction between murder and lynching. Sun 9-2-55

How can it be called a lynching? Is there the slightest suggestion of mob action? Can the state of Mississippi and the Southern region be disgraced by accusation of a lynching?

The killing of a white boy in these identical circumstances would be murder. The killing of a Negro boy in these circumstances is murder.

Again let it be said that the killers should be convicted and completely punished.

But the South is having a hard enough time, trying to struggle out of the racial bog, without a murder being warped into a lynching and added to the Southern burden.

The Spirit Of Mississippi

Daily Worker

The state of Mississippi has often been before the nation for interesting discussion for many decades. The great delta country, because of its climate, fertile soil and vast waterpower possibilties, has long been envied as the land of opportunity. Naturally it would have been a great slave market at one time, because its agrarian enterprise called for armies of workers in the cottonfields and cattle ranges. The close of the civil war, therefore would leave a heavy deposit of newly freed citizens, who though having spent generations in unrequited toil, possessed that unimpeachable integrity, that thrift and industry and native courage to account themselves as men of the red blood of freedom. 11-20

In the early days there came a group of old ministers and teachers, many learned somehow to read in slavery time, to register upon the forums of public thinking many gems of technical thinking. Atlanta, Ga.

From this school, strong leaders emerged to take their places in the pioneer days of struggle for first class citizenship. In Mississippi soil lies the dust of old martyrs who fell to the sacred cause of one people, one world and one peace—for all.

Naturally among their decendants would be found those who are today lifting their voice to the claim of a place in the sun for their people. For economy's sake, we quote a news item:

"Whites and Negroes here are locked in a cold war as explosive as the struggle between the Soviet Union and the United States. Sat. 1—22—55

"The desperation of white vested interests and political demagogues, and the retaliation of Negro leaders gives the air the supercharged intensity of a battlefield.

"DOUBLE-BARRELLED

"Negro leaders last week opened a double-barrelled financial drive to fight economic and political pressures against their race. Almost immediately after the Negro leaders launched their drive, Atty. Gen. J. P. Coleman said some 1,100 Mississippi lawyers had been sent commissions as special assistant attorney-general to assist the state in handling suit that inevitably arise in the state's determination to defy the highest court in the United States.

"Most dramatic aspect of the struggle however was the fact that Negroes were standing up almost to the man against moves of whites to relegate them to second-class citizenship.

"A NEW STATE

"The Mississippi Progressive Voters' League recently launched a campaign to raise $100,000 for a fight against a new state constitutional amendment aimed at keeping Negroes from voting—something guaranteed by the U. S. Constitution."

Surely it is a regrettable state of affairs in which the Negro must continue to fight for what he pays for and deserves. Apparently this is the procedure by which he is to come into those realities warranted and guaranteed him in the Constitution of the United States.

Such a condition has produced leaders. The stress and tension of privation and denial has tempered him in the resisting fires to the end of an indefinite endurance.

Every era has fashioned those sent along to those generations destined for trial and who of such, must struggle for existence.

Mississippi's colored and white population is nearly evenly balanced. Still there is not a single Negro in the General Assembly, nor a member of Congress from that group.

Disgrace In Mississippi

(From The New York Herald Tribune)

The sovereign state of Mississippi has just suffered a disgrace. Down in the Delta country a visiting Negro boy from Chicago is supposed to have insulted a white woman by making "ugly remarks" and for that heinous offense was kidnaped, shot in the head and dumped into the Tallahatchie River. This, in the opinion of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, constitutes a lynching. Regardless of definition (lynching is supposed to consist of mob action by at least three persons, and in this case it is unclear whether more than two were involved) the boy is just as dead. He was murdered by lynchers in spirit.

There was a time when Tuskegee Institute in Alabama gathered statistics each year on the grisly phenomenon of lynching. But the last established instance was in 1951, and the country congratulated itself thereafter that this particular outrage against law and order, especially directed against the Negro minority, had been stamped out by growing enlightenment. It seems now that the self-esteem may have been slightly premature, at least as related to some part of Mississippi.

The white supremacists in Mississippi are quick to say that this murder on the Tallahatchie cannot rightly be blamed on their resistance to desegregation. Of course they do not condone even the approximation of lynching, but it is hard to see how calculated inflammation — politically and economically — can fail to feed the fires. In the case of the Chicago boy, Emmitt Till by name, Mississippi is on the defense. We hope there will be swift prosecution to maintain law against the forces of darkness and to deter any other would-be lynchers.

Mississippi, Like Time, Marches On

Daily World

Some day a story of Mississippi will be written. That state is too unique in its climatic setting of pioneer intolerance and those ghostly dramas enacted before its floodlights.

The big river, made famous in steam-boat epics, and delta people of man-eating ferocity preying upon the fine possibilities preferably to go to waste, to the implementing of those otherwise fine and cultural values in the genuine pattern of American democracy. Thurs. 9-8-55

The wide cottonfields and the singing herd of dialect mimics, with head-rag and young one strapped just above the cotton-sack along the long rows will be welded into one colorful mural. There will not be the absence against this background of the sniff of bloodhounds and the squeal of black human as the cordon of the thirsty forms a ring around his lair.

Some few days ago, some one penned a story of the early intolerance employed in the state of Mississippi. That state has just survived one of its bitterest race-baiting political campaigns. The records disclose that Negroes were barred from the polls in wholesale fashion. P 4

The winner in the gubernatorial runover Attorney General Coleman has issued a manifesto in defiance of the authority of the attorney general of the United States.

He would contend that: "The state would immediately and vigorously resist any effort on the part of the United States to take over our state elections." Atlanta, Ga.

Governor Hugh White seconded the attitude of his incoming successor as well as his chairman of the state Democratic executive committee, who issued orders on election day that Negroes be

barred from the polls.

Mississippi at the same time, has a lynching in her lap. With the school integration already deep in the hopper and the incoming governor, before he takes his oath to "uphold and defend the constitution of the United States," would defy the attorney general of those United States, a box was shipped from its borders to Chicago, bearing the remains of a teen-ager, allegedly kidnaped and lynched for "wolf-whistling" in the presence of a white woman.

So, Mississippi, like time, ——— marches on.

The condition in which all of our southern states find themselves and the challenge set before our people, will of themselves find those leaders to furnish the chart and pattern by which our portion must be meted.

In spite of an occasional wave of intolerance, subterfuge and denial, Mississippi has a Negro leadership that must be taken into account and reckoned with.

SENATOR EASTLAND DECLINES TO COMMENT ON TILL SLAYING

JACKSON, Miss., Oct. 3—(DSN)—Senator James O. Eastland, chairman of the Senate Internal Subcommittee, back in his home state after an investigation of communist propaganda in New Orleans, declined to comment here Monday on the Till slaying and other issues confronting the state.

Informed sources took the "other issues" to mean the new drive to prevent Negro registration and Negro voting in the Democratic primary in the state.

Here to address a meeting of the North Jackson Kiwanis Club, the Senator said 125 packages of communist propaganda, illegally shipped, have arrived in Mississippi during the past six months.

At the New Orleans investigation, the Senator said one man testified that Jackson was the exchange point for communist propaganda shipped from Mexico.

He added that he had requested the names of Mississippians who are receiving the propaganda.

Till Case Brings Out Pickets At Eastland Committee Hearing

Chicago, Ill., Oct. 10—Pickets from the local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the CIO United Packinghouse Workers Union here paraded in front of the U. S. Customs House Building Friday to protest a Senate Sub-Committee hearing on Communist propaganda.

The pickets carried placards protesting that the chairman of the sub-committee is Senator James O. Eastland of Mississippi.

One sign said: "Senator Eastland—Who killed Emmett Till?"

Another sign said, "Mississippi is the real threat to internal security."

Eastland did not come here for the hearings, which are being conducted in his absence by Sen. William Jenner (D-Ind.)

The subcommittee called two witnesses identified as employes of the newspaper Nordoni Glasnik, a Croatian language weekly with a circulation of 8,100.

The witnesses, Leo Fisher and Anthony Minerich, refused to testify, invoking the First Amendment dealing with freedom of the press and the Fifth, concerning self-incrimination.

Jenner recognized their invocation of the Fifth Amendment, but said the First Amendment was not applicable because the hearing constituted no threat to freedom of the press.

Fisher, identified as "subject editor" of the paper, and Minerich, owner and business manager, were identified as Communists by John Lautner, Washington, D. C.

Jenner charged yesterday that "literally tons of Communist propaganda are pouring into this country every day."

Chicago has been described as a key distribution point for the propaganda, which ranges from "girlie" magazines to praises for Russian industry.

The Mississippi Lynch--Murder

The kidnap-murder of a young teen-ager in Mississippi last week was nothing short of a lynching. The lad was on a visit to that state with his mother who apparently was reared in the community in which the child was killed.

The story goes that he was accused of making insulting remarks in the presence or to the wife of a white storekeeper. On the following Sabbath, the youth was found killed and his body thrown into a creek. He was found by another lad while fishing.

This story is an old one. Over and over again it has been told of like crimes enacted for such frivoulous things as alleged in this account. The latest reports are to the effect that the sheriff of this (Leflore) County said that two white men, Roy Bryant, husband of the woman allegedly insulted, and J. W. Milan, his half brother already charged with kidnaping the youth, will be also charged with murder.

We now come to the sad pass of seeing the ugly head of lynching move again above the troubled waters of this cold war in which we find ourselves engulfed. Traveling from the early scenes of yesterday's enactments of the orgies of rope and fagot, we come to a new order meant to obtain the same objective as the old. This underground course is nevertheless as much of a violation of one's civil rights as the other.

We have had cases here in Georgia of such nature to be closed with — "This person came to his death at the hands of a party or parties unknown to this jury." This procedure went on, making life and property insecure and rendering a condition of fear in our rural areas.

The tide of lynching went unstemmed and while there was a letup in those lynchings that inevitably would come to view, the number was made up in those flagrant underground methods.

Cases of this nature in order to come under jurisdiction of the Federal government must conform to the regulations by which the federal courts may take jurisdiction.

Many of these cases have been of a nature as to render them beyond the jurisdiction of the United States courts. In that the practice has been allowed to go on almost unmolested.

Those citizens who love our country and appreciate its good offices in this cold war period and its broad influence in the field of world relations, are alarmed at the situation in Mississippi. They want to see these grave dangers and agencies of fear removed from the borders of our Democracy.

We realize that this section is feeling a wave of reaction as a result of recent court decision, but change is inevitable and civilized people are expected to make it without recourse to violence and murder.

her child on a peaceful mission down in Mississippi, can never

Let the Mississippi murder be probed to the bottom. The wound in the breast of this poor mother, who happened to take be healed.

Local and state officials should move to reduce this reaction and take steps to punish the guilty. Otherwise, Congress will be compelled to pass legislation to make racial crimes subject to more severe punishment than the present federal statutes permit.

8780

NAACP Acts in Death Of Mississippi Negro

By the Associated Press.

BELZONI, Miss., May 23.—The National Assn. for Advancement of Colored People has pledged legal war against Mississippi's voting laws, after a Negro civil rights leader died under mysterious circumstances.

NAACP executive secretary Roy Wilkins promised the court battle at a mass meeting yesterday of 400 Negroes, called to protest the handling of the Rev. George Lee's death.

Mr. Wilkins from New York charged that an "atmosphere of racial hatred" stirred up by the pro-segregation citizens councils "brought about the slaying."

Mr. Lee was found fatally injured when his car crashed into a house. The FBI laboratory said specks of metal around his face resembled buckshot.

Negro leaders believe he was killed for urging other Negroes to register to vote in Humphreys County, where Negroes outnumber whites.

change since the last report. We're still investigating."

* * *

THE REPORTER then asked this question: "Haven't you had time enough to come up with something?"

Mr. Caldwell's reply was: "Well, I can't really answer that. Each one of these cases has to stand on its own bottom. There are certain conditions that exist in the South that have to be met and overcome.

The inference was that whites in Dixie use every method to block investigations by "outsiders," meaning Northerners or the FBI.

Mr. Caldwell said that the Belzoni investigation is strictly confidential as far as giving out information is concerned.

"When we get ready to take court action, then it becomes a matter of public record," he said.

"We aren't ready to present anything to the grand jury yet, because we haven't finished our investigation," Mr. Caldwell said.

* * *

THE REV. George W. Lee, a Baptist minister, was shot and killed by three white men in a Plymouth convertible last May after he had been a leader in a move to get colored citizens registered as voters.

One eyewitness to the affair turned up in East St. Louis, Ill., and was promptly taken to the FBI by the president of the NAACP branch there.

However, no arrests have been made by the FBI, which undertook a full scale investigation into the lynching at the request of the national office of the NAACP.

The murder was listed as the first lynching of 1955.

LYNCHING

Are FBI men stumped in Miss. case?

WASHINGTON

Does the racial pattern in the South have the FBI stumped?

This was intimated, Tuesday, by Arthur Caldwell, chief of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Section.

When questioned about the FBI's progress in apprehending the slayer of a colored minister in Belzoni, Miss. last May, Mr. Caldwell said:

"There are certain conditions that exist in the South that have to be met and overcome."

Mr. Caldwell told the AFRO: "I can't give you any light on the situation. There has been no

FBI STUDYING DEATH OF NEGRO IN BELZONI

Evidence Called Sufficient For Full Investigation

From The Commercial Appeal Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON, June 3. — The FBI has launched a full-scale investigation of the unexplained death of Rev. George Wesley Lee, Belzoni, Miss., leader of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

G. Frederick Mullen, Justice Department public relations director, said a preliminary FBI probe turned up enough information to warrant a "regular" investigation.

The first investigation was aimed at determining whether any Federal laws had been violated. Mr. Mullen said the present investigation is "going forward." He said he has no idea how long it will take.

The Negro preacher died May 7 en route to a hospital after his car crashed into a house on Belzoni's Church Street.

Negroes in the vicinity reported they heard two explosions similar to shotgun fire shortly before the crash. Two Negro physicians later reported finding some small pellets in the Negro preacher's mouth. FBI agents reportedly identified the pellets as buckshot.

A convertible automobile was reported to have passed along Church Street a few minutes before the Negro's car crashed.

NACW calls for probe of Mississippi killing

WASHINGTON

"Speedy compliance" with the Supreme Court's school decision, and an investigation of the murder of the Rev. George Lee in Belzoni, Miss., were urged by the National Association of Colored Women last week.

NACW also called for continuance of the Women's Bureau and Federal supervision of the preparations and distribution of anti-polio vaccine.

The exhotations came in a letter sent by NACW President Irene M. Gaines to the Young Republican Federation. The Federation met in convention at Detroit on June 18.

IN COMPLIANCE with your request for recommendations for consideration by the platform committee," Mrs. Gaines' letter read, "we send the following:

"1. We strongly urge the speedy compliance by the several states involved with the Supreme Court decision of May 17, ordering desegregation of the public schools.

"2. We strongly urge an investigation by the FBI and the Attorney General's Office in the violent death of The Rev. George Lee in Belzoni, Miss., which arose out of his efforts to get Negroes registered to vote in the forthcoming national elections.

"3. We strongly urge the retention of the Women's Bureau and its services in the Department of Labor.

"4. We urge support of HR 6120 to require Federal inspection of all Salk anti - polio vaccine; a Federal stamp of approval on each vial, showing the inspector's number; and priority in the administration of the vaccine according to age groups most susceptible to polio."

8780

Witness to Murder

Teacher Ordered To Leave Belzoni

BELZONI, Miss.—Top flight NAACP officials were busy this week seeking to wade away the Mississippi "mud" which is threatening to obscure the facts surrounding the May 8 assassination of the late Rev. G. W. Lee, militant Baptist minister.

Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the NAACP, urged U. S. Atty. Gen. Herbert Brownell Jr. to institute a Federal probe of the murder.

In the meantime, other officials of the NAACP, led by Mrs. Ruby Hurley and Dr. A. H. McCoy, president of the state NAACP, organized a giant mass meeting which was held in Belzoni Sunday to "let the state, country and the world know that we are going to continue our fight for freedom."

* * *

MR. WILKINS asserted that Olezia White, a substitute teacher who had been considered an important witness in the Lee murder case, had been ordered to get out of town.

Commenting on this charge, Sheriff I. J. Shelton asked, "What witness? We know of no witness disappearing."

Sheriff Shelton is the same sheriff whom the Rev. Mr. Lee helped haul into Federal court on charges of refusing to accept poll taxes from Negroes two years ago.

Friday night the Belzoni coroner's jury handed in a verdict which said that the Rev. Mr. Lee had died from hemorrhage and probable asphyxiation from a wound, the cause of which is not clear.

* * *

JUSTICE of the Peace J. W. Wampler said "that is as far as we can go" and then turned the matter over to Sheriff Shelton, who was not available for comment on the verdict.

Wampler also released details of the FBI report which said that three of the fragments taken from the victim's jaw "are most similar in weight and composition to No. 3 buckshot," and that three other fragments, "although extremely mutilated and deformed," are similar in composition.

Sheriff Shelton had charged that the Rev. Mr. Lee, slain as he drove his car along a Belzoni Street, was not murdered because of his vote registration activity, as alleged by the NAACP. The sheriff also said, "We're pressing a search for Lee's murderer and knitting evidence together all the time."

* * *

IN JACKSON, Miss., speaking from a hospital bed, White Citizens Council secretary C. L. Puckett said that the council "had nothing, absolutely nothing" to do with the murder of Lee.

"We have fully cooperated with local police but we have received very little cooperation with Negroes. We want to find out who killed Lee as badly as anyone."

Puckett, who sought to have legislation passed which would have eliminated all Negro voters in his county during 1954, said that "violence is against our constitution and by-laws. It would be doing us a favor if his slayer is caught."

"If he turns out to be white, we would want him to be tried the same as a Negro. Frankly, from our contacts, it appears that it is not a white man. But should it turn out that it is, we would ask for a conviction on him as quickly as we would a Negro."

The NAACP has charged that Lee was shot down because he urged Negroes to vote in Belzoni.

— BIGGEST and the BEST —

Courthouse Murder

Pro-American Baltimore, Md.

D.A. accuses governor, sheriff

BROOKHAVEN, Miss. — Explosive racial tension which has cost the lives of two Mississippians in recent months increased last week as three whites were jailed on murder charges and a sheriff and the Governor were accused of neglect of duty.

The NAACP immediately urged the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate the murder, contending the victim was shot "as a result of a conspiracy against his execise of the right to vote."

Two white farmers and an oilfield worker were charged with murder Wednesday by a coroner's jury and released under $20,000 bail each in the Saturday afternoon slaying of a 63-year-old farmer in the crowded courthouse square at Brookhaven.

PRIMARILY responsible for the arrest of the trio was Lincoln County District Attorney E. C. Barlow, who leveled charges of neglect of duty at Sheriff Bob Case, who saw one of them "leave the scene of the killing with blood all over him."

Mr. Barlow was sharply critical also of Gov. Hugh White, whom he accused of failure to co-operate in cleaning up election fraud and refusing a request for highway patrol aid in investigating the killing.

The dead man, Lamar (Diddie) Smith, was shot Saturday afternoon as a crowd of more than 50 persons watched an argument between him and Mack Smith, Charles Falvey and Noah Smith.

* * *

ACCORDING TO District Attorney E. C. Barrow, the argument between Smith and the three white men had been an outgrowth of his activity in getting colored residents of the county to vote absentee ballots in next Tuesday's general elections.

County officials said that white residents who lived at a distance from the county polling places had been permitted to cast their votes by absentee ballots for a number of years.

Smith, they said, had been obtaining the absentee ballots for colored residents and "considerable numbers" of them had been voting them.

* * *

THE THREE MEN charged with Mr. Smith's death accosted him as he left the courthouse, Mr. Barlow said, and started an argument about the colored vote.

"Then they all got into a scrap, and one of them finally pulled a gun and shot Smith. He ran a few steps and fell down dead. The white fellows beat it."

Noah Smith, a farmer who is believed to have been the one who fired the fatal shot, was arrested the next day. Falvey, another farmer, and Mack Smith, an oilfield worker were arrested in Tuesday, the day before the coroner's hearing.

* * *

THE ALL - WHITE coroner's jury found that "Lamar (Diddie) Smith came to his death from gunshot wounds in an altercation with Mack Smith, Noah Smith and Charles Falvey and perhaps other parties unknown at this time."

The three were held in the Lincoln County jail pending the September grand jury session which will deal with the case.

District Attorney Barlow said that while it had been difficult to get any of the persons who were in the square at the time of the shooting to testify, that he had witnesses.

* * *

"I DON'T THINK I'll have any trouble at all getting an indictment," he added, "I've got witnesses or I wouldn't have charged these follows with murder. My witnesses will be good enough to convict them, too, I reckon."

Commenting upon Governor White's refusal to grant his request for highway patrol aid in the investigation without a request from the sheriff, "who had not turned up a single witness," Mr Barlow said:

"If he wants to ignore the other citizens and the request from the district attorney's office, that is his blunder and not mine."

* * *

THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY urged a general house cleaning for what he called "fraud and corruption throughout the county."

"There is existing in this county a general situation which I do not care to discuss, but it is publicly and generally known and it is high time . . that the elections . . . be brought back to fair, honest decent and impartial elections without fraud and corruption heretofore existing"

As another outgrowth of the Lincoln County situation, Nelson Case, candidate for supervisor, said that more than 30 residents of the county had signed a petition asking the Governor for National Guard protection at the polls during the election scheduled for August 23.

* * *

THE EARLIER DEATH attributed to the attempts of Mississippians to resit the granting of civil right to colored citizens was that of the Rev. George W. Lee, Mississippi NAACP leader who was slain from ambush as he drove near his home in Belzoni, Miss. over three months ago.

No progress has been made in solving the shotgun slaying which was first dismissed as an automobile accident by local authorities.

NAACP To Memorialize Miss Murder Victims

Informer

Sat. 10-15-55 p. 7

VICTORIA — Emmett Till, the 14-year-old youth who was brutally murdered in Mississippi, will be memorialized along with the two other recent murder victims in Mississippi, during the 19th Annual Meeting of the Texas Conference of Branches which will be held in Victoria, Texas, October 21-23. Special efforts will be made to raise appropriate funds to be used by NAACP in bringing the murderers to the Bar of Justice, according to President H. Boyd Hall of the Texas NAACP.

Houston Texas

The theme of the Victoria annual meeting is built around plans for implementing the Supreme Court decision towards affecting desegregation of Texas public schools. Among the national and state leaders, who will participate in the three-day conference at Victoria will be: General Counsel Thurgood Marshall; National Director of Branches, Gloster Current; Regional Attorney U. Simpson Tate; Assistant Field Secretary Edwin Washington. State Director of Branches Lulu White; State Organizer Juanita Craft, along with local branch leaders.

27a 1955

8781

MISSISSIPPI

Tells of Screams In 'Whistle' Trial

World-Telegram & Sun, Thurs. 9-22

Farmhand Saw Negro Taken Into Barn

New York, P.

By JOHN HERBERS,
United Press Staff Writer.

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 22.—A witness testified today at the murder trial of two white men that he saw a Negro who resembled slain Emmett Till being carried to a barn shortly after his Aug. 27 abduction and heard "hollering" coming from the building. He also said he saw one of the defendants wearing a pistol.

Willie Reed, 18-year-old Negro farmhand, was brought to the stand at the murder trial of white half-brothers Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam as the first of five "suprise" witnesses turned up by the State of Mississippi.

Follows Mother.

He followed Mrs. Mamie Bradley, grief-stricken mother of the 14-year-old Till boy, who said the body that came to her in Chicago for burial was that of her son, who had been visiting in Mississippi.

Saw Milam, Too.

The Reed youth testified that Milam was the man with the pistol strapped to his waist.

Mr. Reed said he worked on a plantation in the rich delta country owned by Clint Sheridan, a farm on which Leslie Milam, a brother of one of the defendants, also lives.

About 6 a.m. the morning of Aug. 28, he said, he was enroute to a store when he saw a 1955 green Chevrolet truck occupied by "three or four white men in the cab and three colored men in the back."

He said he later saw the same truck parked in front of a barn.

Over strong objections from the defense table, Judge Curtis M. Swango allowed Mr. Reed to testify that a photograph of the slain Till boy "looked like one of the boys in the back of the truck."

The witness said he saw defendant Milam leave the barn, go to a nearby well, get a drink of water and return to the barn.

While Milam was inside the barn, Reed testified: "I heard some licks and heard someone hollering."

"They were hollering "Oh" and it sounded like a human being.

Court was recessed for lunch after defense lawyers failed to get the sensational testimony thrown out and likewise failed to win directed acquittal for one of the two defendants.

Mrs. Bradley wept when Special Prosecutor Robert B. Smith showed her a photograph of the body that was removed from the Tallahatchie River Aug. 31 and asked her if it was that of her son.

Her identification of the photograph of young Emmett was considered important for the prosecution because Sheriff H. C. Strider of Tallahatchie County had raised the possibility earlier that the body taken from the stream was not that of Till.

"Is that the picture of your son?" Mr. Smith asked.

No Expression.

"Yes, sir," she said in a voice drained of expression.

She said she examined the body shipped to Chicago "very minutely" and was certain there could have been no mistake.

"I looked at it all over and very thoroughly," she said. "I knew beyond a shadow of a doubt it was my son."

She also identified a ring taken from the body as one that belonged to her late husband, the boy's father, who was killed in World War II.

Jury Sent Out.

When her boy left Chicago Aug. 20 for a visit with his uncle, Mose Wright, in the Money (Miss.) community, she said, he was wearing the ring.

Judge Swango sent the jury out of the room shortly after defense attorneys began putting questions to Mrs. Bradley as to what Chicago newspapers she read and about her warnings to her son to "get on his knees" if necessary to appease white people in Mississippi.

When the jury returned, the jurist ruled out all talk about her warnings but allowed newspaper clippings of the boy's body to be entered as exhibits.

Defense Attorney J. J. Breland cross-examined Mrs. Bradley, who was called by her first name of "Mamie" by both defense and state lawyers.

'A New Way of Life.'

While the jury was out of earshot, the woman was asked if she were quoted correctly that she told her son to humble himself before white Southerners. She said she was quoted correctly in the essentials.

"I told him he would have to adopt a new way of life when he went to the South and to say 'Yes, sir,' and 'No, ma'am,' at all times and that, if an incident should ever arise to make it necessary for him to get on his knees and beg forgiveness, he should do so," she said.

"I told him never to get in fights with any white boys."

C. F. (Chick) Nelson, mayor of Tutwiler, Miss., and manager of the funeral home that sent the slaying victim's body to Chicago, also testified for the state.

He was asked by Mr. Smith whose body he was told to pick up from a Greenwood (Miss.) mortician who brought it from the river, 20 miles away.

"That of Emmett Till," Mr. Nelson said.

District Attorney Gerald Chatham told reporters today there was no plan to switch the trial to another county. Reports that two witnesses from neighboring Sunflower County had been put on the list led to speculation there might be a change of venue.

Mr. Chatham said he believed two of the witnesses would place Milam and Bryant near the scene of the crime.



United Press Photo.

Mrs. Roy Bryant at courthouse yesterday.

Trial Opens Tomorrow In 'Wolf-Whistle' Murder

Sun. 9-18-55

Star

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 1—What undoubtedly will be a sensational trial opens in this little farm town Monday when two white men face charges of murdering a Negro boy who whistled at a white woman.

National attention centers on the seat of a county where Negroes outnumber whites three to one.

The slaying of 14-year-old Emmett Louis Till of Chicago brought a cloudburst of protest from other States.

Despite the State's taut race relations, Sheriff H. C. Strider said he expects no incident. He took off for a week-end trip to Atlanta and the Mississippi-Georgia football game.

There has been no repetition of the rumors of invading Chicago Negroes and threatening telephone calls which brought out the National Guard in Greenwood when the two accused men were in jail there two weeks ago.

Boy Was Visiting Uncle

The trial begins three weeks and two days after young Till's body, a bullet hole in his head and a weight around his neck, was pulled from the Tallahatchie River. The scene was a quarter of a mile inside Tallahatchie County.

The boy, visiting a tenant farmer uncle, reportedly whistled at the wife of a storekeeper in Money, a small community in neighboring Leflore County, and some reports said he also made some "ugly remarks."

The climax of the case begins with selection of an all-white jury at 9 a.m. in the little courtroom of an old, gray brick courthouse. No Negroes will serve on the jury. None was listed on the special 125-man jury panel drawn for the trial. That's customary in Tallahatchie County.

Women do not serve on Mississippi juries.

The State will try to convince the jury "beyond all reasonable doubt and to a moral certainty" that Roy Bryant, 24, and his half brother, J. W. Milam, 35, killed the boy.

The accused men admitted taking young Till from his uncle's home, officers said, but said they released him unharmed when Mrs. Bryant said he was not the boy who whistled at her. The whistling incident allegedly occurred at Bryant's store.

The men pleaded innocent to the murder indictment. They also face a kidnaping indictment in Tallahatchie County and a kidnaping charge in adjoining Leflore County, where young Till was abducted.

District Attorney Gerald Chatham has refused to say whether he will ask for the death penalty. Defense attorneys expect him to.

Mr. Chatham's questioning of prospective jurors should answer the question. The minimum penalty for murder is life imprisonment. The maximum penalty for kidnaping is 10 years imprisonment.

Some doubt has been expressed about identification of the body found in the river. Sheriff Strider doubts it was young Till's. The boy's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley of Chicago, says it was "beyond all shadow of a doubt."

The boy's mother, fearing violence, kept secret her plans for traveling to the trial "as quietly as I can get there." She agreed to testify after days of wavering.

Speedy Trial Expected

"I would just as soon not have too many people meeting me. There's no way to tell whether they are friends or foes."

County officers expect a speedy trial. "It'll be over by Wednesday, maybe Tuesday night," one said and asked to remain anonymous. That would mean three days for jury selection, testimony, arguments to the jury and a jury verdict.

Bryant and Milam will stand trial together. "It's all right with us," said Defense Attorney J. J. Breland. "The facts are the same."

Defense attorneys—all five of Sumner's lawyers—did not ask for separate trials.

Opposed by five lawyers, District Attorney Chatham asked for help. Attorney General J. P. Coleman, governor-nominee, appointed a former FBI agent, Robert B. Smith III, of Ripley, a special assistant attorney general to help Mr. Chatham.

Ike Asked to Act In Negro Lad's Death

N. Y. World-Telegram & Sun, Fri. 9-2-55

Chicago Mayor, Boy's Mother Appeal to Him

By the United Press.

GREENWOOD, Miss., Sept. 2.—President Eisenhower was asked today to "see that justice is done" in the slaying of a Chicago Negro boy in Mississippi.

Mayor Richard J. Daley of Chicago and Mrs. Mamie Bradley, 34, mother of Emmett Till, the 15-year-old victim, called on the President to take action.

The killing—discovered when a fisherman found the weighted, bludgeoned body in a river—was bringing professions of outrage from over the nation and state, and even among Mississippi neighbors of the two white men held for the crime.

Mayor's Letter.

"I strongly urge that all the facilities of the federal government be immediately utilized so that the ends of justice may be served," the Chicago mayor wrote Gen. Eisenhower.

Emmett's mother said: "President Eisenhower should take a hand. He should see that justice is done."

Mrs. Bradley said she warned her son to be careful when she sent him to visit an uncle in Mississippi.

'On Your Knees.'

"I told him, 'Even if you have to get on your knees and bow when they (white persons) pass, do it willingly,'" she said.

Mrs. Eula Lee Bryant, mother of half-brothers Roy Bryant and J. W. Milan, the men held for the Till slaying, vowed to "stand by them" through forthcoming grand jury action and their trials, if they were indicted.

Mrs. Bryant said her sons "were never into any meanness" and that Negroes in their neighborhood liked them.

Governor's Stand.

Gov. Hugh White denied Mississippi condones the crime. Prosegregation leaders in the state expressed regret. Local authorities promised a vigorous prosecution.

A part of the indignation over Emmett's death stemmed from the fact that an impedi-



ROY BRYANT.



J. W. MILAN.

ment made his speech difficult to understand.

He had been left an almost unintelligible stammerer by a childhood polio attack.

Admit Kidnaping.

Bryant and Milan confessed kidnaping the boy, Sheriff George Smith said, explaining they thought he told Mrs. Bryant "goodby" in an insulting way upon leaving the Bryant store in which she worked.

The accused men said Emmett also gave a "wolf whistle" call to Mrs. Bryant.

"He was bound to have been misunderstood," Mr. Smith said. "I don't see why his folks let him come down here in the first place."

Although Bryant and Milan claimed they finally decided Emmett was not the right boy, Mr. Smith said he was "not surprised" when he learned the body was found.

Willie Reed Will Not Return To Mississippi

Weekly World, New Orleans, La. Sat. 10-15-55

Chicago (ANP).—Willie Reed, 17-year-old witness for the state in the Till murder trial, said here that he will not go back to Mississippi to testify in the kidnaping trial of Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam, who are charged with taking Emmett Till from the home of his uncle. Till was later found brutally murdered.

The decision of young Reed not to go back to Mississippi might hurt further chance for a guilty verdict against Milam and Bryant who were acquitted earlier on charges of murdering the 14-year-old Chicago youth.

Mrs. Edith Thomas, 37, mother of Reed, told reporters here: "Under no circumstances will I permit my only child to risk his life a second time. Willie told the Tallahatchie County jury all he knew at the murder trial. His testimony is there if they want it."

Reed, who is recovering from a nervous disorder at Michael Reese hospital here, was quoted as saying that he is "afraid to go back there." His mother added:

"Do you think I want my boy killed? If I let him talk before the LeFlore County jury next month God only knows what might happen to him."

The governor of Mississippi, Hugh White, is quoted by a Chicago paper as saying that if Reed doesn't want to testify, that's his business.

"It's all a lot of propaganda, anyhow. There is no danger here that should frighten any witness," White is quoted as saying. He added that he has no power to compel the youth to testify.

White also announced that the prosecutor for the kidnap trial will be Stanley Sanders of Indianola in Sunflower County. Leflore County Judge Arthur Jurdan will preside at the trial.

Mrs. Thomas said that when her son is released from the hospital he will move in with her. She said she did not know how he left Mississippi or where the expense money came from.

"With Willie well, and the few dollars I have saved, we'll manage to get along," Mrs. Thomas said.

Moses Wright, uncle of Till, who pointed out Milam and Bryant at the murder trial, has stated definitely that he will go back to Mississippi and testify against the two white men at the kidnap trial.

Attorney William Henry Huff has said that he will request that Reed, Wright and Mrs. Amanda Bradley return to Mississippi to testify at the trial. He said that Mrs. Mamie Bradley, mother of the slain boy, will not have to go back.

Huff said he will file separate $100,000 damage suits against each of the defendants. He had stated that he would take this course of action if the men were not given the death penalty on the murder charge.

Meanwhile, reaction to the trial continued to be expressed. The general board of the National Council of Churches of Christ, representing more than 35,000,000 members, passed a resolution that said responsibility for "violation of human personality on racial grounds rests upon the entire nation."

In Drew, Miss., Alonzo Bradley, husband of Amanda Bradley, has been found safe on a plantation. Earlier reports had said Bradley had been killed or chased out of the state by a mob of white men.

According to reports, Bradley said no one had molested him and he felt that his wife would be safe if she returns to Mississippi. He said he had been able to contact his wife only once since she left.

In New York, Mrs. Ruby Hurley, Southeast Regional Secretary of the NAACP said the Till trial "convinced most Mississippi Negroes that if the law won't protect them, it is up to them to protect themselves."

She cited the case of one Negro businessman on whose lawn a cross was burned recently. She quoted him:

"I have not bothered anybody and I don't expect to sit quietly by and let anyone kill me for nothing. I have an idea who burned the cross near my home and I have let it be known that if anyone comes for me, they had better be prepared to go too."

Civil Rights Congress Festival Use Till Case As Theme

Advocate, Jackson, Miss. Sat. 10-15-55 P. 1

Several Known Communists On Program

Milwaukee, Wis. Oct. 10— The Wisconsin Civil Rights Congress festival held here took the Emmett Till case as the Central theme of its program Sunday night. Several known Communists played leading roles on the program.

The meeting, billed as the annual fall festival of the WCRC, was opened with an announcement by John Gilman, executive director, that the Till "lynch" murder will be a highlight of the festival.

A mixed group of some 300 persons attended the "festival."

Geraldine Lightfoot of Chicago, wife of Claude Lightfoot who was convicted under the Smith Act for being a Communist, played a key role in the festival.

Samuel Horowitz, of Milwaukee, former Communist Party organizer, and Junius Scales, also convicted under the Smith Act, also spoke.

Advocate

An hour-long show was staged by a group of 10 Minneapolis women and included one song, entitled "Fight for Freedom," dedicated to Till.

Weekly World

Mississippi Turns Deaf Ear

Courier

Is the Till Case Closed?

Sat. 11-19-55 P. 2

By WILLIAM A. FOWLKES

GREENWOOD, Miss.—Mississippi has done it again! The LeFlore County grand jury last week refused to indict on kidnapping charges J. W. Milam and Roy Bryant, two white half-brothers accused of taking 14-year-old lynch victim Emmett Till from the home of his great-uncle.

Even though the Chicago boy's great-uncle, Moses Wright, told the grand jurors he answered the accused men's calls to open up his rural sharecropper home and give up the boy; even though 18-year-old Willie Reed told them that he saw Till on a truck with his abductors hours after he had been taken from the Wright home, and even though county officers repeated testimony that the accused admitted taking the boy, but claimed they turned him loose later . . . the LeFlore County grand jury refused to indict Milam and Bryant for kidnapping.

270 Mo.

WRIGHT AND REED had come to Greenwood from their Chicago exile to point out the same men who were acquitted in Sumner on charges they had murdered young Till. Trial jurors there had claimed the state "failed to identify" the body taken from the Tallahatchie River as the Chicago boy's badly mutilated, beaten and decomposed body.

They did this despite the testimony of the boy's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley, that the ring taken from the body was one she had given her son and that the features of that body were her son's.

But, last week the LeFlore grand jury refused to act favorably on Moses Wright's positive "word" that he knew the men who took young Wright from his home in the wee hours of the morning of Aug. 28, that Reed saw Till taken into a barn and one of the men emerge after he heard "hollering."

They simply refused to give credence to what Sheriff George Smith and Deputy Sheriff John Ed Cothran had said the accused confessed to them about taking the boy from Wright's home.

In other words, they turned "deaf ears" to what otherwise might have been considered to be "positive testimony!"

2 Half Brothers Freed In Wolf Whistle Case

Inquirer

Philadelphia, Pa.

GREENWOOD, Miss., Nov. 9 (AP).—A Leflore county grand jury today declined to indict two men on charges of kidnaping Emmett Louis Till, 14-year-old Chicago Negro.

The decision freed Roy Bryant, 24, and his 36-year-old half brother, J. W. Milam, of all charges in the Negro's case.

11-10-55

A trial jury in nearby Sumner six weeks ago found the white storekeepers innocent of murdering Till.

NO SURPRISE TO NAACP

In New York, Executive Secretary Roy Wilkins of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People said the jury's action "comes as no surprise to anyone acquainted with the administration of justice in Mississippi."

He added that the freeing of the two men demonstrates "anew the impossibility of securing justice in Mississippi in any case in which a Negro is the victim of a white man's wrath and violence."

"The question now arises," Wilkins said in a statement, "since Mississippi jurors have determined that Milam and Bryant did not kidnap and murder young Till, who did commit the crimes?"

DECISION ANNOUNCED

Circuit Judge Arthur Jordan announced the grand jury's decision to waiting newsmen after he discharged the 20-man, all white grand jury.

Bryant and Milam reportedly were working in cotton fields and could not be reached for comment.

The grand jury's action canceled the $10,000 bonds each posted for freedom while waiting for a decision in the kidnaping case.

The half brothers were charged in Leflore county with kidnaping last Aug. 28 after Mose Wright, Till's 64-year-old sharecropper uncle, said two white men took Till away for allegedly wolf-whistling at Mrs. Bryant.

P. 14

BODY FOUND IN RIVER

A body was found in the Tallahatchie River three days later.

Wright and Till's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley of Chicago, identified it as Till.

But defense attorneys in the murder trial presented three witnesses, including a doctor and an undertaker, who testified that the body had been in the water too long to be Till.

The jury at the Sumner trial didn't hear Mrs. Bryant's testimony about the remarks.

While the jury was out, Mrs. Bryant testified a Negro had walked into the store, at Money, Miss., put his hands on her waist, and asked her for a date. She never identified the Negro.

TESTIMONY RULED OUT

Judge Curtis Swango ruled the testimony inadmissible because he said the incident took place too long before Till's disappearance.

Wright and 18-year-old Willie Reed were called by the grand jury yesterday.

The other witnesses before the grand jury included Sheriff George Smith and Deputy John Ed Cothran.

Sheriff Smith and his deputy told the murder trial jury that Bryant and Milam admitted taking Till from Wright's farm shack in nearby Money, but said they freed him unharmed when they found he was the wrong Negro.

Reed's halting testimony had placed Milam with Till several hours after the two men said they released the Negro boy, who was vacationing in Mississippi when he disappeared.

The two Negroes returned to Mississippi to testify before the grand jury. They went to Chicago after the murder trial, because they said they were afraid to remain in Mississippi.

Editoral of the Week

Atlanta Ga.
Sat. 12-16-55
Nashville, Tenn.

The following editorial is reprinted from the current edition of the McComb, Miss. Enterprise-Journal:

THE TILL CASE IN RETROSPECT

We, the people of Mississippi, viewing the murder and kidnapping cases in retrospect, must conclude that we can but be ashamed of our conduct.

Mississippi people are not murderers. We do not condone the murder or diknapping of people whether they be white or colored. But when justice appears in the role of a farce and people generally are afraid to assert themselves, then we, the people ourselves because of cowards, become parties of crimes.

The Jackson State Times warned editorially that the Till case "will continue to haunt the state."

"It wound up, not in the solid ground of justice accomplished but . . . because a symbol of the white-hot determinataion of Mississippians to conduct their affairs as they please," Editor Norman Bradley wrote.

"The symbol was ill chosen, the battle waged against the wrong foe because it took the course of blind opposition to 'outside interference' rather than to an obvious injustice.

"Mississippi has betrayed its own sense of decency and its own cause of independence in the management of its affairs.

"We showed the world all right, that Mississippi does not bow to the dictates of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, but the NAACP is not the loser. Justice is the real loser and when that is true, Mississippi suffers."

There is no escape from the basic truth that a state must be a community of law and justice if it is to maintain the respect of the world.

The greatest handicap the State of Mississippi has experienced in many years is the reaction to the Till murder and kidnaping trials. Whoever killed that dimwitted Negro boy rendered a disservice to Mississippi which ih inestimable.

The attitude of Mississippi people suggests that we fell for a divergent attack. We approached the Till case as if we rad succeeded in placing the NAACP on trial. By failing to find and convict the murderers and kidnapers we assumed that the NAACP was getting a kick in the teeth. The truth is that we supplied that organization with propaganda material which has been used to defame our state in every country of the globe.

Outsiders accuse us of being unjust to the Negroes of Mississippi They seek to drive a wedge between the good Negroes and good white people of Mississippi. No one can dispute the fact that this is true. And how do we go about disproving the claims of the NAACP? We manifest an attitude which is contrary to law and order. We are accused of a calloused regard of the courts where Negroes are concerned and then in our resentment reveal the amazing and contradictory position of proving that we are guilty of what we are accused.

VOTE TO END RACISM URGED AT TILL RALLY

D. Gi. Times

Mon. 12-5-55 P. 2

Americans were called upon yesterday to use their voting power to end racism and lynching in the United States. The appeal was made before 3,000 persons at a Harlem rally to protest the jury verdict that acquitted two white men of the murder of 14-year-old Emmett Louis Till, a Negro, in Sumner, Miss.

The meeting was held at the Lawson Auditorium, 112 East 125th Street. It was organized by the New York Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Speakers included Jack Poller, chairman of the National Executive Committee of the American Jewish Congress; Mrs. Ruby Hurley, southeastern N. A. A. C. P. regional director; Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the N. A. A. C. P.; Art Chapin, chairman of the Human Relations Commission of the New Jersey C. I. O. Council, and Russell P. Crawford, president of the New York Branch of the N. A. A. C. P.

Mrs. Mamie Bradley of Chicago, the Till boy's mother, was a scheduled speaker, but did not attend. She is in Provident Hospital, Chicago, suffering from "nervous exhaustion."

In a separate development, the National Committee of the Communist Party deplored yesterday the acquittal in the Till murder trial as indicative of the "collapse of law and order in Mississippi."

Profit From Recordings Will Aid NAACP

Emmett Till's Lynching Set to Music

LOS ANGELES—"The Death of Emmett Till," a tragic, heart-rending folk song by Mrs. A. C. Bilbrew and recorded by Dootone Recording Company, is being readied for nation-wide release next week. The narration and music is by the Ramparts. In two parts, the record covers the life of Till and subsequent events leading up to the 14-year-old youth's brutal murder in Mississippi.

Mrs. Bilbrew is widely known as a choral director, pageant producer and song writer. She is a civic leader and an ardent worker in NAACP circles.

Dootsie Williams, who heads Dootone Records, the nation's largest Negro owned and operated recording firm, has offered to donate a percentage of the record's royalties to the NAACP.

He and Mrs. Bilbrew are friends of many years standing. She said her first thought, after writing the saga, was to obtain Williams' cooperation in recording and distributing it. "I feel strongly that this America folk song will live on and on and serve a purpose," Mrs. Bilbrew declared.

Dootone is making "The Death of Emmett Till" available at record stores everywhere. In addition, sample copies are being sent to the NAACP, press, radio and TV stations, churches and civic organizations.

Emmett Till Story Told On Recording

LOS ANGELES—(ANP)—"The Death of Emmett Till," a tragic, heart-rending folk song by Mrs. A. C. Bilbrow and recorded by Dootone Recording company, is being readied for nation-wide release next week. The narration and music is by the Ramparts. In two parts, the record covers the life of Till and subsequent events leading up to the 14-year-old youth's brutal murder in Mississippi.

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Wright To Go Back To Mississippi

GREENWOOD, Miss.—(A N P)—Moses Wright, 64-year-old witness in the infamous Emmett Till murder trial, left here last week for Chicago, but told officials that he would be back in Greenwood to attend the kidnaping trial of the two white men accused of spiriting away young Till.

8783

Emmett's Kin Hang On In Miss. To Harvest Crop

Defender, Chicago, Ill.
Sat., 9-17-55

By MOSES NEWSON

MONEY, Miss. — With dogged determination, Mose Wright, uncle of the Chicago lad slain in Mississippi, is hanging on in Money, Miss., to gather what promises to be one of his best cotton crops in many years.

But neither Wright, nor his three young sons there with him, will take a chance on sleeping in the six-room "home" which he recently told his wife Elizabeth, he would like to live out his remaining days.

At 64, Wright, a lover of the outdoors and "good for 200 pounds of cotton any day," has for years turned down pleas by his wife and other children to move from Mississippi.

Now, he's willing though unhappily so — to go.

But not until he finishes gathering the bumper crop of cotton on 25 acres which he grew as a sharecropper on the G. C. Frederick plantation.

Wright told the Defender on Wednesday that he would have picked 18 bales from his crop by the time the sun set that day and there was plenty more.

TOO MUCH TO LEAVE

Too much to run away and leave, the little Church of God in Christ preacher believes.

He expects to clear $1,000 for the year.

Back in 1948 he said he made $2,000 with Mr. Frederick, a German whom Mr. Wright says "believes in giving you what you make." He has been on the plantation since 1946.

Mr. Wright has received one threatening letter since Aug. 28 when Emmett Louis Till was taken from his home.

Looking back on that night, Wright said that everybody calls him "preacher" and recalled how "they called to me so nice preacher, preacher."

"And then they killed that poor boy."

Mrs. Wright, who is 55, apparently had become resigned to staying on in Mississippi and just a few weeks ago bought herself a new washing machine. But she left the home on Aug. 28 and has not returned. She went to Chicago when Till's body went up.

DO HOUSEHOLD CHORES

In her absence, Wright and the boys — Robert, 14; Maurice, 16; and Simeon, 12, cook for themselves and do the dishes at the house in the morning and before taking off for the night.

The only weapon in the small frame home is a shotgun.

If Mr. Wright has things figured right, he will get his cotton harvested by the last of Octoboer or the first part of November.

Until that time he will keep living his here-by-day gone-at-night life.

He seems certain he can handle any situation that comes up while he is awake.

Each time that cars slowed down in front of the house, he kept telling this Defender reporter, "Don't worry. It is all right here."

Say U.S. Can't Enter Till Murder Case

Defender, Chicago, Ill.
Sat., 9-17-55

By ETHEL PAYNE

WASHINGTON — The justice department said last Wednesday that after an exploration of the facts presented in the Till case it had no jurisdiction in the matter.

However, regarding seven other charges of murder and intimidation of citizens at the polls. Warren Olney, chief of the criminal division, said a full investigation is underway.

He said it is not yet complete. Olney did not say when a report would be ready.

Olney conferred for an hour and 40 minutes with NAACP leaders including Roy Wilkins, Thurgood Marshall, Clarence Mitchell, Mrs. Ruby Hurley, Southeastern Regional NAACP director and Medgar Evers, field secretary for Mississippi.

Wilkins and the group called upon the federal government to act promptly and decisively to prevent further bloodshed in the state.

Wilkins said the federal government cannot escape reponsibility by shifting the obligation to the state.

Marshall said if citizens in the state of Mississippi can get neither protection from within the state nor the federal government, the country is in bad shape.

Wilkins described conditions in Mississippi as a reign of terror with the people helpless. Wilkins said he was optimistic about some action being taken by the federal government, but he did not see much hope for state action in the voting case.

He said he has sent a letter to chairman Paul Butler, of the Democratic National committee, protesting the action of the Democratic machine in Mississippi, in calling a conference to cut down on the number of Negro voters. No reply had been received Wednesday, Wilkins said.



BISHOP ISAIAH ROBERTS (left) pastor of Roberts Temple Church of God In Christ, Chicago, presents check for $3,000 to Mrs. Mamie Bradley, mother of lynched Emmett Till. The money was collected at Roberts Temple, where Till's funeral was held. The church had previously presented Mrs. Bradley with $164.22, also collected while Till's body lay in state. Defender photo.

Till Case Trial Opens Sept. 19

Defender, Chicago, Ill.
Sat., 9-17-55

By E. J. MAYS

SUMNER, Miss. — (INS) — Two white men accused of murdering a 14-year-old Chicago boy in the Mississippi Delta will go on trial for their lives on Monday, Sept. 19.

Circuit Court Judge Curtis Swango set the trial date Friday in Sumner. He ordered a prospective jury list of 125 men drawn up from which to select the 12 men who will sit in judgement on the sensational case.

The murder victim is Emmett Louis Till, who was abducted from the home of an uncle he was visiting in Money, beaten with an ax and shot through the head.

Roy Bryant, 24, of Money, and his half brother, J. W. Milam, 36, of Glendora, were indicted on charges of murder and kidnapping. Till was killed after he allegedly whistled at Bryant's attractive 21-year-old wife and "talked ugly to her."

The youth's body was found in the Tallahatchie river two weeks ago, weighted down with a 150 lb. cotton gin fan secured with barbed wire.

Dist. Atty. Gerald Chatham said Friday that Till's mother, Mrs. Mamie E. Bradley of Chicago, has agreed to attend the trial. Earlier this week Mrs. Bradley termed the delta "a den of snakes."

In Chicago Friday, Mrs. Bradley denied receiving an invitation to the trial. She said she would check with her attorney before accepting such an invitation.

The governors of Mississippi and Illinois both asked for a full investigation of the death.

Till's body was returned to Chicago for burial. Thousands of persons filed by his casket to view the body.

Bryant and Milan are being held

in the Charleston jail until the trial. They admitted taking Till from his uncle's home, but said he was released when Bryant's wife failed to identify him as the one who had whistled at her.

Atty. Gen. J. P. Coleman, Mississippi's governor-elect, has named Robert B. Smith III of Ripley, a former FBI agent, special prosecutor in the case.

The brothers face a possible death sentence if convicted.



ROY BRYANT

The Cause Of It All



BECAUSE EMMETT TILL allegedly whistled at Mrs. Carolyn Bryant (above) he was kidnapped and lynched in Money. [illegible] under indictment for the 14-year-old Chicagoan's kidnap and murder are her husband, Roy Bryant, and his half brother, J. W. Milam.



MISSISSIPPI'S SHAME—This is the gruesome picture of what happened to 14-year-old Emmett Till, Chicago elementary school student who was lynched by Dixie whites visiting relatives in Money, Miss. Emmett was murdered because he allegedly whistled at a white woman. The mutilated body, weighted down with 70 pound wheel, was fished out of the Tallahatchie river a few days later.

PROSECUTION MAY NOT ASK DEATH PENALTY IN TILL SLAYING

Sumner, Miss., — Sept. 12—(ONS)—The prosecution declined to say Monday that it will ask the death penalty for the kidnap-murder of the 14-year-old Negro boy Emmett Till.

A special jury panel of a hundred and twenty men is in process of being drawn by circuit Judge Curtis Swango.

When the trial of half-brothers Roy Bryant of Money, Miss., and J. W. Milan of Glendora opens Sept. 19, state and defense each will be allowed to reject 12 jurors without cause and any number for cause.

District Attorney Gerald Chatham declined to say whether he would ask prospective jurors if they had any objections to the death penalty.

But attorney J. P. Breeland of Sumner who heads a battery of five defense attorneys, said he was certain that state would ask for the maximum sentence.

The jury will be composed of 12 white men. Women can not serve jury duty in Mississippi. Both sides said that no Negroes will be impaneled.

Breeland said the defense would not ask for a change of venue and was "ready to go to trial right now."

"The way I see it," said Breeland, "the state has got to prove three things:

1. That the boy was murdered.

2. That it happened in the second judical district of Tallahatchie County.

3. That Bryant and Milaam did it.

"It's all circumstantial, which is O. K. when you'r returning an indictment but quite different when you've got to prove it beyond a reasonable doubt."

A murder conviction in Mississippi carries a maximum penalty of death in the gas chamber. However in addition to acquittal, a jury can return one of three verdicts in a murder case.

1. Guilty as charged which makes the death sentence mandatory.

2. Guilty and fix the penalty at life imprisonment.

3. Guilty but disagree on sentence which makes it mandatory that the judge impose a life sentence.

8784

Till Kidnap Hearing Postponed

Times-Picayune

Witnesses Set to Testify Told to Return

Jun. 11-8-55

By SAM JOHNSON

GREENWOOD, Miss., Nov. 7 (AP)—The Leflore County grand jury working through a heavy docket, delayed until tomorrow consideration of kidnap charges against two white men in the famous Till case. Witnesses scheduled to testify today were told to return tomorrow morning.

New Orleans

Dist. Atty. Stanny Sanders said earlier he hoped to finish testimony today in the kidnap charges which grew out of the disappearance of Emmett Louis Till, 14-year-old Chicago Negro boy.

Jury Starts Work

A 20-man, all-white grand jury began work this morning with the Till case its hottest business.

The jury's action on the kidnap charges won't be known until the grand jury makes its report, probably Wednesday, Sanders said.

The jury will decide whether half brothers Roy Bryant and John W. Milam will stand trial on a charge of kidnaping the Negro boy who disappeared while vacationing in Mississippi.

Mose Wright, 64-year-old sharecropper, who said he fled to Chicago for safety, waited in the Leflore County sheriff's office to testify. Till was abducted from Wright's farm shack in nearby Money last Aug. 28.

Claim No Fear

With Wright was Willie Reed, 18-year-old farm hand, who also left for Chicago after the famous trial in nearby Sumner six weeks ago when a jury found Bryant and Milam innocent of murdering Till.

Wright, Till's uncle, and Reed arrived in Greenwood last night from Chicago.

They said they have no fear of being harmed in Mississippi but seemed nervous. Wright said he will be happy when he has returned to Chicago.

Wright is the state's star witness. At the murder trial of the two white men, he identified both as the men who came to his farm shack about 2:30 a.m. and took Till away.

Testimony Cited

Reed, a farm hand on a plantation run by Milam's brother, Leslie Milam, testified that he saw Till with Milam several hours after Milam and Bryant claimed they released the Negro boy.

Officers testified that both white men admitted taking Till from Wright's home, but said they freed the boy unharmed when they found he was not the one who made off-color remarks and wolf-whistled at Mrs. Bryant.

Milam and Bryant have been free on $10,000 bond each on the kidnaping charge since the trial in adjoining Tallahatchie County took only 67 minutes to find them innocent of murdering Till.

Two Possible Charges

The grand jury could indict the men under one of two Mississippi kidnaping statutes. One carries a maximum penalty of death. The other carries a maximum of 10 years.

Officers pulled a body from the Tallahatchie River three days after the white men took Till. Wright and the boy's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley of Chicago, identified the body as Till.

However, the defense in the murder trial introduced three witnesses, including a doctor and an undertaker, who said the body had been in the water at least eight days, and therefore could not have been Till's.

Contradictions Figure

Jurors said the contradictory identification figured heavily in their verdict of acquittal.

Dist. Atty. Sanders said the grand jury would hear most of the state witnesses who testified at the Sumner murder trial.

No Negroes are serving on the grand jury. Sanders said yesterday "We've had them before . . . there may be some on there this time."

Sheriff George Smith said today no Negroes were included in the panel of 64 men from which the grand jury was selected. The court also selected two petit juries of 12 men each from the 64-man panel.

The 18-year-old Reed said he planned to attend college on a scholarship given him by the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People.

Wright said he also will live in Chicago. "I like it up there pretty good, but it is just a little too cold," he said.

World Eyes Mississippi Grand Jury

Defender

Sat. 11-12-55

P. 1

The eyes of the world are focused on Greenwood, Miss., this week where a grand jury is meeting to decide whether Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam must stand trial for kidnapping Emmett Louis Till.

Chicago Ill.

The two men were cleared by an all-white, male jury in Sumner, Miss., of a murder charge in the death of the 14-year-old Chicago boy. Young Till was found slain three days after two white men, identified as Bryant and Milam, kidnapped him from the home of an uncle in Money, Miss.



Bryant Milam

While the world awaits the verdict, the witnesses whose lives were changed drastically as a result of the innocent whistle of young "Bo" Till struggle to adjust in a new society.

Willie Reed, like others, was forced to flee Mississippi in "cloak and dagger" style after he testified at the murder trial that he saw young Till after the kidnaping and heard cries coming from a barn on the plantation of Leslie Milam, half brother of J. W. Milam.

Defender

Reed was aided in his flight from Dixie by Cong. Charles Diggs of Detroit. Diggs said he is anxious to see that the ex-farm boy receives an education.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

P. 2

The 18-year-old youth accompanied Atty. William Henry Huff to New York recently, where initial funds for a Willie Reed Scholarship fund were donated by Bishop Robert Hynes of Cosmopolitan Community church.

Huff said Tuesday he had just returned from Baltimore, Md., where the Elks donated a $1,000 scholarship for Reed's education. Announcement was made by Lt. George W. Lee, of Memphis.

Attorney Huff, counsel for Mrs. Mamie Bradley, mother of Till, said funds for the scholarship should be sent to the national office of the NAACP and addressed to the "Willie Reed Scholarship Fund".

Meanwhile, young Reed had his financial worries. He still owes a bill at Michael Reese hospital, where he was taken after suffering a nervous breakdown. He is living here with his mother and stepfather and still has a police guard.

Attorney Huff told the Defender Tuesday that plans are being made for Reed to attend an academy. He is an eighth grade student.

Mrs. Amanda Bradley, a reluctant witness in the Till murder trial, is a little disillusioned by the big city. She, too, was forced to flee Mississippi for her life after testifying.

Mrs. Bradley said she has been unable to contact members of her family by mail in Mississippi and that some letters have returned showing evidence that they have been tampered with. She said she has received no correspondence from relatives in Mississippi since she was informed that her husband had been beaten and forced to flee after refusing to tell where she had gone.

Mrs. Bradley suffers with arthritis and cannot work. She has managed to eke out a living from contributions made by various churches. The NAACP gave her $50 and has promised to give her more aid, Mrs. Bradley said. In the meantime, she is rooming with a Westside family and is weeks behind in her rent.

It was less than two months ago when Chicago threw out the red carpet to welcome Amanda Bradley, a refugee from Mississippi. Chicago can be a cold and impersonal city, too, Amanda has found.

NEW HOME

For Moses Wright and his wife, Elizabeth, Chicago's Westside is now home. Until Emmett Till, their nephew was slain, they had been deeply rooted to the Mississippi soil. A whistle, heard around the world, was eventually to force them to flee the life they had known for so many years and start life anew.

Adjusting to Chicago has been a little easier for Wright, a God-fearing minister in the Church of God. At the trial, Wright pointed an accusing finger at men he said entered his farm home and spirited away his nephew. He has said he will do it again if necessary.

The whistle heard around the world also changed the life of the person who was closest to Emmett Till — his mother.

Few people knew Mrs. Mamie Bradley before her son's body was pulled from the Tallahatchie river several weeks ago. Since then she has become a symbol and has spoken to almost a quarter million people. This week she is filling speaking engagements on the east coast and next week with Ruby Hurley, of the NAACP, will begin a series of west coast speaking engagements. The protest ral-

Jury Delays Till Hearing

Advertiser

Montgomery Ala.

GREENWOOD, Miss., Nov. 7 (AP)—The Leflore County grand jury, working through a heavy docket, delayed until tomorrow consideration of kidnap charges against two white men in the famous Till case.

Witnesses scheduled to testify today were told to return tomorrow morning.

11-8-55

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A 20-man, all-white grand jury began work this morning with the Till case its hottest business.

Mississippi Has Two Laws

Herald p. 27-A

Grand Jury Ready to Hear Wolf Whistle Kidnap Case

Miami Fla. Wed. 11-2-55

GREENWOOD, Miss. —(UP) —The final criminal phase of the Emmett Till case, one of the most publicized race incidents of the decade, begins Monday when a grand jury meets to consider kidnap indictments against two White men already acquitted of the Negro boy's slaying.



TILL

State prosecutors will ask the Leflore county grand jury to order Roy Bryant, 29, and his half-brother, J. W. Milam, 36, to stand trial for abducting Till, 14, of Chicago, last Aug. 28 for allegedly directing a "wolf whistle" at Bryant's pretty wife.

The grand jury is expected to act on the indictments Monday or Tuesday. If they are handed down, District Attorney Stannie Sanders said, the men probably will stand trial later this month, possibly Nov. 28. There also is a possibility defense counsel will ask for a delay until a later court term.

Wide indignation was directed at Mississippi when a body was pulled from the Tallahatchie river three days after Till was forced from the home of an uncle he was visiting in the nearby Money community.

The corpse was identified by the uncle, Moses Wright, and Till's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley of Chicago, as that of the missing boy. It had been weighted with a piece of cotton gin machinery, beaten and shot once through the head.

Milam and Bryant, who with his wife operate a small general store in Money, were accused of the youth's slaying in addition to being charged with kidnaping.

In a sensational trial at Sumner in adjoining Tallahatchie county, an all-White male jury took little more than one hour Sept. 23 to find the men innocent of Till's death. Several jurors said the State failed to prove the body was Till's.

The verdict was sharply attacked by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, other civil rights organizations and several congressmen.

Rep. Charles Diggs, Jr., Michigan Democrat, who attended the trial, said he had "never witnessed such sheer perjury and fantastic twisting of the facts", although the presiding judge and the prosecution were generally praised for their handling of the case.



BRYANT



MILAM

Protest demonstrations were held throughout the nation against the acquittal and alleged mistreatment of Negroes in Mississippi. The NAACP called upon Congress to deny seats to the Mississippi delegation and urged enactment of anti-lynching laws.

One NAACP chapter asked the federal government to send troops into Mississippi to supervise elections in which Negroes would be assured voting rights.

Sanders said the grand jury would be advised of two state kidnap statutes, one of which provides that a trial jury may set the death penalty of life imprisonment. The other fixes maximum punishment at 10 years in prison.

Bryant and Milam contended they let Till go unharmed after discovering he was "not the one" who insulted Mrs. Bryant when the boy went into the store to purchase bubble gum. Both were identified as the abductors by Till's uncle, who is expected to be the prosecution's star witness.

The two White men were released from Leflore county jail here Sept. 30 under $10,000 bond each. Milam has been busy hiring out mechanical cotton pickers, in great demand during the harvest season in the rich Mississippi Delta.

Bryant reopened his small store, which had been locked and deserted following his arrest on kidnaping charges. Last Oct. 19, he advertised in a local newspaper that his place was up for sale.

CHAPTER CLOSED

Advertiser

Grand Jury Clears Pair Of Till Kidnaping Guilt

Montgomery, Ala. Thurs. 11-10-55

GREENWOOD, Miss., Nov. 9 (AP) —A Leflore County grand jury today declined to indict two white men on charges of kidnaping Emmett Louis Till, 14, Chicago Negro.

The decision freed Roy Bryant, 24, and his half brother, J. W. Milam, 36, of all charges in the famous case.

A trial jury in nearby Sumner six weeks ago found the white storekeepers innocent of murdering Till.

Circuit Judge Arthur Jordan announced the grand jury's decision to waiting newsmen [illegible] he discharged the 20-[illegible] all white grand jury.

Bryant and Milam reportedly were working in nearby cotton fields and could not be reached immediately for comment.

The grand jury's action canceled the $10,000 bonds each posted for freedom while waiting for a decision in the kidnaping case.

The half brothers were charged in Leflore County with kidnaping last Aug. 28 after Mose Wright, 64, Till's sharecropper uncle, said two white men took Till away for allegedly making obscene remarks to Mrs. Bryant.

A body was found in the Tallahatchie River three days later.

Wright and Till's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley of Chicago, identified it as Till.

But defense attorneys in the murder trial presented three witnesses, including a doctor and an undertaker, who testified that the body had been in the water too long to be Till.

The jury at the Sumner trial didn't hear Mrs. Bryant's testimony about the remarks.

While the jury was out, Mrs. Bryant testified a Negro had walked into the store, at nearby Money, Miss., put his hands on her waist, and asked her for a date.

"I've been with white women before," she quoted the Negro as saying.

She never identified the Negro.

Judge Curtis Swango ruled the testimony inadmissable because he said the incident took place too long before Till's disappearance.

Wright and Willie Reed, 18, were called by the grand jury yesterday.

The other witnesses before the grand jury included Sheriff George Smith and Deputy John Ed Cothran.

Sheriff Smith and his deputy told the murder trial jury that Bryant and Milam admitted taking Till from Wright's farm shack in Money but said they freed him unharmed when they found he was the wrong Negro.

Reed's halting testimony had placed Milam with Till several hours after the two men said they released the boy, who was vacationing in Mississippi when he disappeared.

Mississippi Grand Jurors Hear Till Case Witnesses

Memphis Press-Scimitar Raleigh N.C.

GREENWOOD, Miss., Nov. 8 (AP) — A Negro teen-aged farm hand and an elderly Negro sharecropper testified today before the grand jury that will decide whether two white men will stand trial in the Emmett Till kidnaping case.

The two Negroes are expected to be key state witnesses if an indictment is returned.

The Leflore County grand jury may report tomorrow whether Roy Bryant, 24, and his half-brother, John W. Milam, 36, will be indicted for kidnaping. A trial jury in nearby Sumner six weeks ago found both men innocent of slaying Till.

Mose Wright, 64, Till's uncle, ended a weary wait at 2:21 p.m. when County Atty. J. J. Fraiser Jr., called him into the grand jury room.

Wed. 11-9-55

At the murder trial, Wright said two white men roused the 14-year-old Chicago Negro boy from bed and took him away because he allegedly made off color remarks and wolf-whistled at Bryant's wife.

Wright was in the grand jury room 24 minutes and the jury later recalled him for a brief time.

Willie Reed, 18, farmhand, was called next and spent 10 minutes before the 20-man, all-white grand jury.

Reed at the murder trial testified he saw a bald man who looked like Milam with Till several hours after Milam and Bryant claimed they released the Till boy unharmed.

Deputy Sheriff John Ed Cothran, who testified in the murder trial that Milam admitted taking the boy from Wright's shack, was called before the grand jury after Reed.

Next came Sheriff George Smith, who testified at the trial that Bryant admitted jerking Till out of bed in the early hours of last Aug. 28 and taking him away.

Bryant and Milam are free under $10,000 bond each, awaiting action of the grand jury.

DEMONSTRATE AT WHITE HOUSE IN TILL CASE

Daily Tribune
Tues. 10-25-55
P. 10

Chicagoans Appeal for Congress Session

Chicago, Ill.

Washington, Oct. 24 (AP)—A group of 32 Chicago Negro religious leaders demonstrated outside the White House today against the killing in Mississippi of Emmett Till, 14, of Chicago.

The demonstrators were led by Dr. C. W. Harding, pastor of the Victory Baptist church of Chicago.

From the White House the group went to the capitol for a demonstration outside the office of Vice President Nixon and to call later upon Atty. Gen. Brownell.

Nixon Not Available

At Nixon's office the delegation was informed the Vice President had a previous luncheon engagement and would be unable to see them. The group left with expressions of disappointment.

Members talked with one of the Vice President's secretaries and told her of their requests for a special session of Congress to enact civil rights legislation.

After he left the office, Augustus Savage, editor of a Negro magazine in Chicago, told a reporter "we believe he [Nixon] should have received us. We came here as Christian folk to try to do something about these outrages. The government must do something about them."

Trumbull Issue Raised

Harding said he would ask Brownell for "federal intervention in the Till case" and for federal action to end "racial disturbances in the Trumbull park" federal housing unit leased to the city of Chicago.

Harding said 29 Negro families are occupants of apartments in the Trumbull park project, but "subject to continual harassment and assault."

The Chicago minister said the others in the group he brought here were all representatives of various Chicago churches, including Baptist, Methodist, and Church of God.

He said they came here to demonstrate for "justice in the lynching of Emmet Louis Till" by securing federal action "to end racial discrimination in America."

Two men were tried for Till's death. One of them was the husband of a woman at whom witnesses said a young Negro wolf whistled a few days before his death.

The men were acquitted after a jury said it was not satisfied with the identification of the body taken from a river.

Protest in Capital In Till Slaying

Herald Tribune
Sun., Oct. 25
P. 26
New York, N.Y.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 24 (AP).—A group of thirty-two Chicago Negro religious leaders demonstrated outside the White House today against the killing in Mississippi of a fourteen-year-old Chicago Negro boy, Emmet Louis Till. The demonstrators were led by Dr. C. W. Harding, pastor of the Victory Baptist Church of Chicago.

Dr. Harding then led his group from the White House to the Capitol for a demonstration outside the office of Vice President Richard H. Nixon. He said the demonstrators were demanding a special session of Congress to "enact Federal anti-poll tax and anti-lynching legislation." But at Mr. Nixon's office the delegation was informed the Vice-President had a previous luncheon engagement and would be unable to see them.

Dr. Harding said he would ask Attorney General Herbert Brownell for "Federal intervention in the Till case" and for Federal action to end "racial disturbances in the Trumbull Park" Federal housing unit leased to the city of Chicago. He said some twenty-nine Negro families are now occupants of apartments in the Trumbull Park project, but "subject to continual harassment and assault."

Pickets threaten march on capital

Afro-American
Sat. 11-5-55
P. 22
Baltimore, Md.

WASHINGTON

Dogged by police, 32 Chicagoans, who came here by bus, picketed the White House for two hours Monday.

They protested against the Till lynching in Mississippi and threatened a mass march on Washington unless the Federal Government granted relief.

Picketers carried signs which read:

"We shall never forget Lamar Smith."

"We Demand Anti-poll Tax and Anti-lynching Legislation."

"Give Us Liberty, Not Death."

"Charity Begins at home — What About Democracy?"

"A Christian Crusade for Equal Rights."

"We Shall Never Forget Rev. George Lee."

"Down With the Cotton Curtain."

"We Died in Korea, We Demand to Live Here."

"Jim Crow Is Un-Christian."

The delegation, which included seven ministers representing various denominations, demanded that justiee be done in the case of Emmett Lewis Till and called for a probe of the Trumbull Park situation in Chicago.

Dr. C. W. Harding, pastor of Victory Baptist Church, and chairman of the Afro-American Congress of Christian Organizations, stated:

"WE HAVE come to Washington not humbly but consclous of our rights as American citizens to assemble peaceably and petition our government for redress of grievances.

"We are aware—shockingly so — of the many murders and atrocities committed against our folk in the South. There hasn't been a single arrest or conviction, although constitutional rights were violated.

"Unless we get some immediate consideration in these matters, the racial situation in America will soon get out of hand and the responsibility for it will rest at the doorstep of government.

"Therefore, if we aren't succesful, upon our return to Chicago, we will issue a call for all organizations to join in a mass march to the capital in January."

* * *

TO COMBAT any notion that this movement is inspired by left-wing groups, the Rev. Mr. Harding said:

"We are Christian people. All are members of bonafide Christian churches. Some are representatives of the Church of God in Christ, some are Baptists and all Methodist churches are represented.

The delegation he said had the endorsement of the Baptist Ministers Alliance in Chicago, the Crusade for Christ, the United Church Council, the International Ministers Conference of Illinois and Indiana and an American magazine.

The group claims that in spite of its religious affiliations, the police department of Chicago sought to prevent the pilgrimage to Washington, and even followed their bus to the Ohio State line.

* * *

IT IS BELIEVED that police there alerted the D.C. police department of the group's proposed visit to the nation's capital.

Upon arrival at the Dunbar Hotel, they found police on guard. Officers kept an all-night vigil. A number of policemen were on guard in front of the White House during the pickets' march.

Policemen surrounded the entrance of the Senate Office Building and the Vice President's office door when the delegation arrived.

Three cars, carrying uniformed policemen and plainclothesmen, plus six motorcycle policemen, escorted the chartered bus from the Vice President's office to the Justice Department.

Policemen surrounded the entrance of the Justice Department and a police patrol was parked at the front entrance of the building, where the orderly delegation stood quietly inside awaiting the return of its six chosen spokesmen.

THE BUS was a combination sightseeing and business transportation vechicle.

During their trip from the Capitol to the Justice Department, the driver pointed out all places of interest, slowing up and stopping at intervals to give details about some of the government buildings.

Upon leaving the Justice Department, they continued their sightseeing tour to the Lincoln Memorial, then on to the Congressional Library before returning to their hotel to meet with the press.

The police brigade went right along with them on the remainder of their sightseeing tour.

* * *

BESIDE THE Rev. Mr. Harding, other ministers in the group were:

The Revs. Ivory Scott, vice president of the congress and pastor of Mt. Joy Baptist Church; R. B. Mills, Ebenzeer Baptist; Albin Radley, Greater Zion Church; Oswald Champagne, assistant pastor, Mt. Joy; Arthur Rogers, associate minister of Victory Baptist; J. Cooper and Albert Gordon, Church of God in Christ.

Others in the group were Miss Arlene Ward, Percy Williams, Mrs. Nettie Washington, Miss Mary L. Holmen, Mrs. Ada Shaw, Luster Jackson and Augustus Savage, spokesman for the group;

Mrs. Fannie Buggs, George Williams, David Poindexter, Clifton Howard, James Jenkins, Miss Delores Musey, Henry Hamilton, Misses Viola Stevens and Roberta Coleman; Miss Mozella Collier, Jess Helton, Mrs. Maybell Howard, Miss Delores West, Charles Howard. McKinley Burr, Sandy Patton and John Garner.

* * *

THE GROUP had hoped to talk with Vice President Richard Nixon and Attorney General Herbert Brownell, but was not successful.

They were informed by the Nixon office that Robert King, assistant to the Vice President, would see them at 1 p.m.

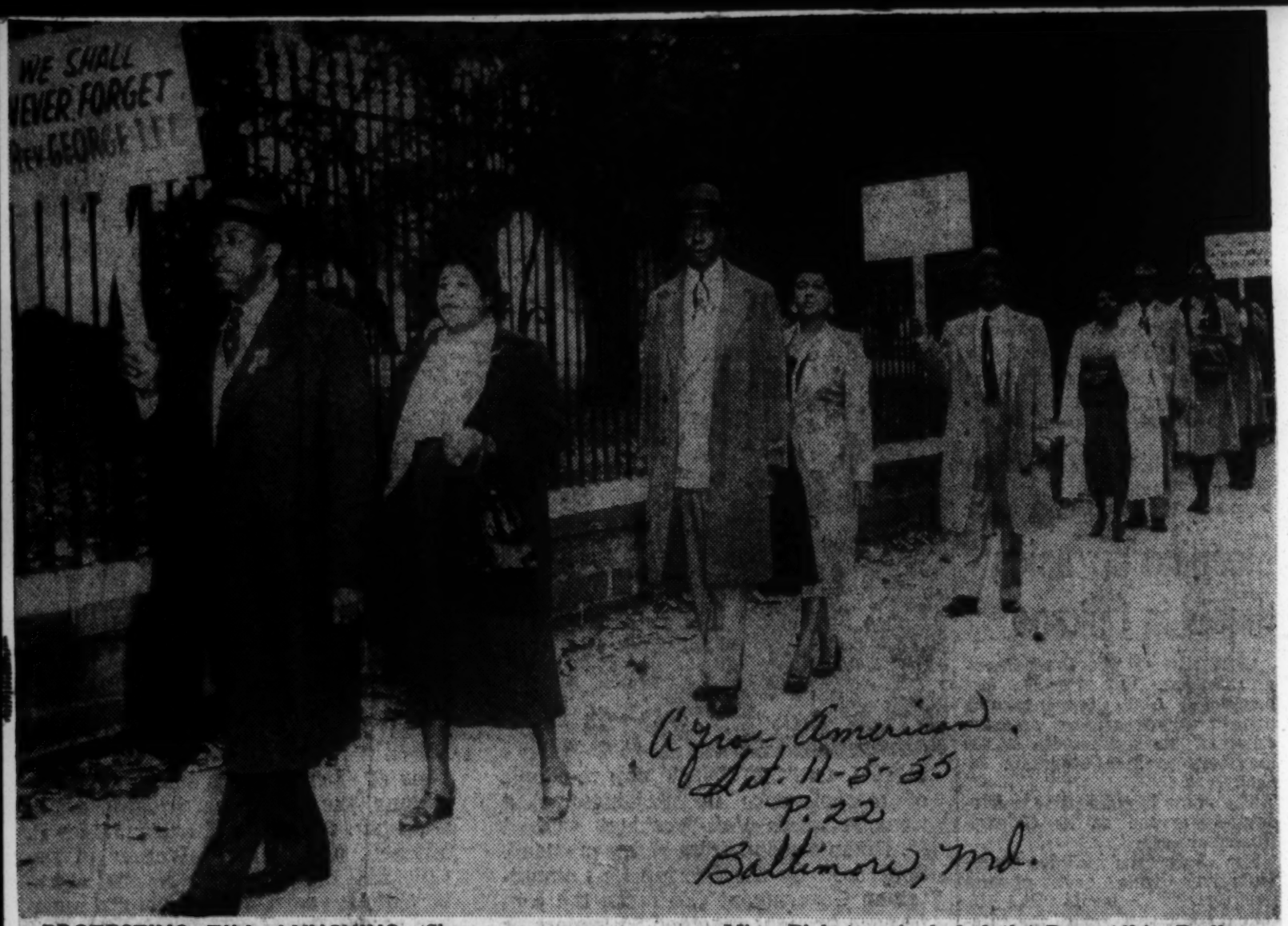
Upon their arrival however, they were told that Mr. King had been called to the White House for a conference.

The only two members admitted to the Vice President's office left a verbal message with Miss Dorothy Cox, receptionist, who in turn promised to pass it on to the proper authority.

* * *

AT THE Justice Department six members of the delegation were given all the time they wanted with Civil Rights chief, A. B. Caldwell, but claimed to have gotten no satisfaction.

The press was barred from the conferences, but a spokesman from the Justice Department stated that the group was informed that the Federal Government had no jurisdiction in the Till case.



Afro-American
Oct. 11-5-55
P. 22
Baltimore, Md.

PROTESTING TILL LYNCHING—Shown are some of a group of Chicagoans, including seven ministers, who picketed the White House, Washington, in protest of injustices in the recent Till murder trial in Sumner, Miss. Picketers included the Rev. Albin Radley, Greater Zion Church; Miss Roberta Coleman, and the Rev. Oswald Campagne, assistant pastor, Mount Joy Baptist Church.

Senators Quietly Probe Till Murder

WASHINGTON—Disclosures that the Senate Sub-Committee on Constitutional Rights has been conducting a quiet yet extensive investigation into the death of Emmett Till and charges of violence and the denial of civil liberties to Negroes in Mississippi were made by Senator Thomas C. Hennings Jr. (D., Mo.).

The senior Senator from Missouri, Mr. Hennings, chairman of the subcommittee, revealed that considerable interest has been manifested in his committee probing conditions in Mississippi.

He stated that groundwork has already been laid and that hearings into violation of the Fourteenth amendment are planned for the near future.

• • •

SENATOR HENNINGS expressed the deep concern of his committee in the situation in Mississippi and other problems in the South. His statement was the first to indicate that the legislative investigation units of Congress at work on the new rise of the Ku Klux Klan and other groups that oppose rulings of the United States Supreme Court.

"The issues of problems developed by the Till case and other violences and denial of civil liberties of Negroes in Mississippi were brought to the committee's attention during hearings on Sept. 17."

At that time, Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the NAACP, gave detailed testimony of atrocities and major violations of the Constitution, it was revealed.

The Senator revealed that he would be glad to arrange for a personal interview with Mrs. Mamie Bradley, mother of Emmett Till, and her legal representatives.

• • •

THE SENATE committee chairman stated that such an interview might determine whether the case presented denial of rights on the Constitution and might pave a way for needed legislation.

Democrat Senator Pledges To Look Into Till Case

Washington, D. C., Nov. 5—U. S. Senator Thos. C. Hennings, Jr. (D-Mo.), Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights said today that considerable interest had been expressed in having his committee look into the charges of violence and the denial of civil liberties to Negroes in Mississippi, particularly with reference to the Emmett Louis Till case.

The Senator reiterated the deep concern of his committee in this and allied problems and pointed out that the issues were forcefully and effectively highlighted during the very first day of committee hearings on September 17 in the testimony of Roy Wilkins of the NAACP.

With regard to the Till Case, Senator Hennings said that he shares the sentiments of most true Americans who belive in democracy and the inalienable rights assured by our Constitution and whose reaction to this case was one of outrage and deep indignation. He stated that more than a month ago he had taken up the matter with the Department of Justice and had received the following reply signed by Warren Olney III, Assistant Attorney Genral:

Available information concerning this regrettable incident indicates that Till was killed, after being kidnapped, by two or more private individuals. Since the alleged kidnapping involved no crossing of state lines, these alleged crimes would seem to be offenses against Mississippi laws only, and no violative of any federal statute. This Department, therefore, has no authority to take any action in connection with the matter."

Hennings further pointed out that both he and Lon Hocker, Chief Hearings Counsel for the Committee, had publicly stated that hey would be glad to arrange for a personal interview with Mrs. Mamie Bradley, mother of the slain boy, and her attorney to determine whether the case presents denial of righs under the Federal Constitution and to idenify the the particular clause involved.

Hensings stated that this matter does not seem to fall within the scope of the free speech and assembly clauses of he First Amendment, on which hearings are scheduled to begin November 14. Among the major issues to be considered in connection with these clauses, he said, will be the question of whether the Federal loyalty-security program conflicts with the right to associate with lawful organizations and individuals and also he question of the legal and constitutional auhority underlying the use of the Attorney General's List.

Illinois Governor Asks US Probe Of Till Death

SPRINGFIELD, Ill.— (INS) — Gov. William G. Stratton of Illinois asked the Federal Government Thursday to investigate the kidnap-murder of Emmett Till, 14-year-old Chicago boy in Mississippi.

A grand jury at Greenwood, Miss., declined to indict Roy Bryant, 24, and his half-brother, J. W. Milam, 36, of Money, Miss. on kidnaping charges in connection with the case Wednesday. Earlier the two white men had been acquitted of the boy's murder.

In a message to U. S. Attorney General Herbert Brownell Jr., the Governor said:

"It now appears that those responsible for this tragic crime are not being brought to justice.

"As Governor of this state, I feel it is my duty to respectfully request the U. S. Government, through your office, to investigate the violation of the rights of this Illinois citizen in another state."

Bryant and Milam were charged with the kidnap-murder of the youngster because he "wolf whistled" at the former's wife. Young Till was on a vacation in Mississippi when he was kidnaped and murdered.

Mississippi Gov. Hugh L. White, notified of Illinois Gov. William G. Stratton request for a Federal investigation of the Emmett Till case, said last night he would "not dignify the matter" with comment.

District Attorney Gerald Chatham, of Hernando, who prosecuted Roy Bryant and J. W. Milar for the murder of the 14-year-old Chicago child, said.

"The case was prosecuted to its finality before a capable jury at Sumner and the pair released because of insufficient evidence."

Dr Harry Emerson Fosdick, Chairman At Meeting Protesting Till Boy's Death

New York, Nov. 4—Reporting on her experiences in connection with the murder trial in the Emmett Till case in Mississippi, Mrs. Ruby Hurley, NAACP southeast regional secretary, charged that the failure of the prosecution to produce evidence and witness revealed the weakness of law enforcement in the state.

Mrs. Hurley made her charge at a luncheon meeting here on Nov. 3, attended by a representative group of some 250 persons who also heard brief addresses by Roy Wilkins, NAACP executive secretary, and Thurgood Marshall, the Association's special counsel. Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick, pastor emeritus of famed Riverside Church in New York, served as luncheon chairman. He characterized the Till slaying as "typical of the rising tide of racial bigotry."

Emmett Till was not killed "because somebody didn't like him," Mr. Marshall asserted, but as part of "old lynch terror, to put the threat of death over all other Negroes."

Noting that the Till lynching was one of a recent series of murders of Negroes in Mississippi, Mr. Marshall declared "we ought to close up shop" in the United States if no level of the government can do anything about the killings.

"There must be action on the federal level," he urged, "because the State of Mississippi in the Till case has showed that a jury there wil lnot give Negroes justice."

Reporting on her personal investigation of the racial situation in Mississippi and other sections of the South, Mrs. Hurley contended that thereis no law which applies to the Negro in Mississippi which can help him in his present plight.

She called the Till lynching "the most dastardly crime experienced in that part of the country."

Recounting on he experience in securing important witnesses to testify for the state in the murder trial of Till's confessed kidnappers, Mrs. Hurley raised the question of why the state went to trial on the case only three weeks after the defendants were indicted for murder. She complained apout the failure of the state to locate available witnesses. She also questioned the absence of the death weapon in the state's case.

Summarizing the situation in Mississipp, Mrs. Hurley asserted that Negroes there don't want "sympathy" They "need the support of northerners," she declared.

Intimidation of Negroes is not confined to Mississippi, she added, put exists also in parts of Alabama and South Carolina.

Mr. Wilkins characterized the lynching of young Till as a revelation to the world" by "two fools" of "the kind of system in vogue in Mississippi." The crime "exposed the whole system in a dramatic manner," he said.

Maintaining that the North must bring democracy "behind the Cotton Curtain," the NAACP's top official pointed out that "the time is growing short" to take action.

Illinois Protests

Milam and Bryant Free; Governor Seeks Justice, Asks Probe in Till Case

Dispatch
Thurs 11-17-55
P. 10

GREENWOOD, Miss.—(ANP) J. W. Milam, 33 and Roy Bryant, 24, have been cleared of all charges in connection with the kidnapping of Emmett Till, whose brutally murdered body was found in the Tallahatchie River three days after his abduction.

A LeFlore County grand jury refused to indict the two half-brothers, who admitted to police that they had taken Till from the home of his uncle, Moses Wright, 63.

Thus, the state of Mississippi has completely exonerated the pair of all complicity in the kidnapping and death of Till, who was visiting his uncle on a vacation from Chicago.

Oklahoma City Black Dispatch

Milam and Bryant were tried in September by an all-white jury on the murder charges.

The grand jury decided not to indict after hearing four witnesses for the state. The witnesses were Moses Wright, who told how a car with at least two men and one woman came up to his house in the early morning hours and two men, whom he positively identified as Milam and Bryant, took Till away.

Willie Reed, 18, who testified that he saw a pickup truck belonging to Milam on the morning of the kidnapping. Reed said Till was in the truck with a group of white men and Negroes.

Sheriff George Smith and his deputy, John Ed Cohran, who told the jury that Milam said Bryant confessed the kidnapping of Till. The officers said the two men accused Till of insulting Bryant's wife in a store.

Circuit Judge Arthur Jordan released the information of the jury's action to reporters waiting outside the jury room.

"Gentlemen," he said, "in the case you're interested in, there was a no bill returned."

District Attorney Stanny Sanders said that as far as the state of Mississippi is concerned the law is through with Milam and Bryant. They cannot be brought to trial again under Mississippi law.

In New York, officials of the NAACP said they were not surprised at the action. In Chicago, Mrs. Mamie Bradley, mother of the slain boy, and her attorney, William Henry Huff, expressed no surprise.

Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the NAACP, said, "The question now arises, since Mississippi jurors have determined that Milam and Bryant did not kidnap and murder young Till, who did commit the crimes?"

Mrs. Bradley said that "just about everything now has run out on me. I don't know what to say. I don't see how they could fail to indict those two men."

Meanwhile, Gov. Stratton of Illinois revealed that he has called for a federal investigation of the entire Till case. In a letter to Atty. Gen. Brownell, Stratton said "a citizen of Illinois was abducted and brutally murdered."

"It now appears that those responsible for this tragic crime are not being brought to justice.

"As governor of this state, I feel it is my duty to request your office to investigate the violation of the rights of a citizen of this state," Stratton said.

One reliable source said there is a possibility that the department of justice has already entered the case to determine if there had been a violation of rights.

The jury which freed Milam and Bryant are under an oath of secrecy and could not talk about the case. The foreman of the jury, Junie Broadway, said he would like to make a statement, but "I'm sworn to secrecy for six months."

The jury decision not to indict was received with shock in many parts of the world. Many had expected an indictment because of the confession.

A Chicago paper said: "If the authorities in Borneo were to license head-hunters to practice their ancient tribal rites, the people of Mississippi would be shocked. But they do not appear to be shocked when the legal processes in Mississippi give any white man a license to kidnap or murder any Negro. . . .

"Decent minded Americans can only conclude from the mishandling of the Till case that the morals of some of the people of Mississippi are at a bestial level."

There still remains the possibility of a civil suit by Mrs. Bradley against Milam and Bryant. However, Mrs. Bradley said she was not certain just what steps will be taken.

Congress Urged To Investigate Mississippi

Informer
Sat. 11-12-55
P. 1
Chester Pa.

MIAMI — The House Un-American Activities Commitee should investigate the "irresponsible officials of the State of Mississippi" because "they are engaging in un-American practices," a New York judge declared here last week.

Addressing the annual conference of the Florida State NAACP, Judge Hubert T Delaney mentioned among Mississippi's un-American practices, racist terrorism, the denial of voting rights to Negroes, and the death of Emmett Till "who was brutally murdered in a manner that shocked the nation yet no one has been punished for this horrible crime."

Governor of Illinois Asks Till Case Probe

Daily
Nov. 14
Norfolk, Va.
Fri. 11-18-55

CHICAGO, Ill.—Gov. William G. Stratton of Illinois on Friday, Nov. 11, wrote to Attorney General Herbert Brownell urging a federal investigation of the Till case.

Stratton told the attorney general that Till was a citizen of Illinois and that somebody should pay for his death.

"As governor of Illinois, I would like to call your attention to the disposition of the Emmett Till case in LeFlore county, Greenwood, Mississippi.

"Emmett Till, a citizen of Illinois, was abducted and brutally murdered. It now appears that those responsible for this tragic crime are not being brought to justice.

"As governor of this state, I feel it my duty to respectfully request the United States Government, through your office, to investigate the violation of the rights of this Illinois citizen in another state."

'Somebody Should Pay'

Stratton told reporters that he didn't believe the case should be dropped "at this point. Somebody murdered that boy and should pay for it."

"We have a responsibility here in Illinois to protect our citizens," he said. "It is clearly within our duty to ask for an investigation and clearly within the province of the federal government to make an investigation."

8787

Up From Georgia With My Banjo

THOMAS JEFFERSON FLANNAGAN

THE BLOOD OF JESUS

Ye dripping from Emmanuel's veins
Where faith's hills are slippy
And Justice struggles within her chains
Fall on Mississippi
That commonwealth that beauty found
And robed in palm spring's vernal, —
For man to make a tenting ground
For satan's ghouls — eternal.

The blood of Jesus shed abroad
Was for those poor bread winners
Just one drop from thy Calvary Lord
Would purge those wicked sinners:
Ah pity them who — curse the sod
Where men are foul and flippy:
Ye who know your watching God
Weep for Mississippi.

The brethren of little Emmett Till,
Who bled in swamps before him,
Camp around where they refill
The shot-gun jaws that tor ehim;
But one on high where justice cries
With her heart-beats skippy, —
With vengeance in his angry eyes
Watches Mississippi.

Song For Emmett Till's Mother

Fri. 10-7-55

By RICARDO WEEKS for ANP

They dragged my baby
Down the road,
Down the road,
They dragged my baby
Down the road,
And on the way they passed the Lord.

They took his life
'Neath a wayside tree,
Wayside tree,
Wayside tree.
They took his life
'Neath a wayside tree,
And the angels wept with me.

Then they drowned his body
'Tho he was dead,
He was dead,
They drowned his body
'Tho he was dead,
And the Lord came up and said

"Instead of weeping,
"Find a way,
"Find a way,
"Find a way.
"Instead of weeping
"Find a way,
"Or it'll be till Judgment day."

Mississippi-1955

NOTE TO EDITOR: The following poem by the distinguished poet and novelist, Langston Hughes, is dedicated to the memory of Emmett Louis Till, 14-year-old victim of a brutal murder in Mississippi. Mr Hughes sent it to the NAACP with permission to release for publication in any newspaper wishing to use it. —HLM.

MISSISSIPPI — 1955
(To the Memory of Emmett Till)
By Langston Hughes

Oh, what sorrow!
Oh, what pity!
Oh, what pain
That tears and blood
Should mix like rain
And terror come again
To Mississippi.

Come again?
Where has terror been?
On vacation? Up North?
In some other section
Of the nation,
Lying low, unpublicized?
Masked — with only
Jaundiced eyes
Showing through the mask?
Oh, what sorrow,
Pity, pain,
That tears and blood
Should mix like rain
In Mississippi!
And terror, fetid hot,
Yet clammy cold,
Remain.

POETRY

What was his crime? He whistled at a dame
I doubt the whistle, blacks are not so dull,
They'd taunt the Southern jackal for a lark,
But let it stand and say the boy was mad
Enough to court annihilation so;
A dame would hear, a lady would have gone
Her quiet way pretending she'd not heard.
Youth is incautious—and he was a child,
Fourteen years old, seven years short of
One qualifies to vote if one lives there.
That is of course if any Negro could
Have dared attempt to vote in tha foul place.

They took the little fellow from his bed,
Waked from the carefree slumber of the young
And carried him away into the night.
The pleas of adult relatives were spurned,
As you would brush away a buzzing fly;
And when they saw him next he was a corpse
Bloated and rotting, dragged out of the slime
And silt that coats a nearby river bed.

Tell me dear God, what happens to a man
Made in your image, that he can become
Lower than venomed rattler that crawls,
Savager than the baited boar at bay?
Tell me Great One, what makes a man a thing
Filled skin-tight with the stewing juice of hate?

——Listen! I feel the rustle of a cloak,
Slipped o'er my form by prophets long since dead,
I feel their gurgling voices in my throat,
And this message that they bid me bear:

"Columbia a Hercules must find,
To turn his modern river to the task
Of cleansing out the awesome, Aegean South,
—Or sink herself beneath the sucking sands.
She cannot light the torch of liberty
With brands passed to her from a lynching pyre;
With crimson dye fro mbutchered black men's veins."
She cannot brighten up Old Glory's bars

Wake! Land of Lincoln—Wake while yet time
And wash your garments clean of Southern slime!

ERNEST E. MAIR

Till Fund Is Set Up

LOS ANGELES, Calif.—Sixteen businessmen have pledged $5,000 for a fund to be used in gathering the necessary evidence to prove that the body found in the Tallahatchie River was Emmett Till's.

C. Emlich Davis, insurance consultant, told the Courier on Thursday that Atty. Morris L. Urnst of New York City and his private investigators have been engaged to secure this evidence.

PUBLICATION 8788

Magazine Rack

By Orval Hopkins

Post + Times Herald

A JUDGE of the Superior Court in Seattle, Wash., has tackled the problem of our idle teen-agers and come up with a solution. Judge William G. Long's idea: Put them to work. Working on the durable theory that youngsters get into trouble because they have nothing better to do, Judge Long cites case after case in which a boy, apparently off on the wrong foot, has been taught a trade and rerouted into a steady and productive life. This is in the American, where you'll also find Kay Lane's "How to Travel with a Boy Friend." Mrs. Lane, a California investment counselor, needed a companion for a cross-country auto trip. She decided against carrying either a man or a woman, chose instead a "male" tommy, which rode quietly the whole distance with her, propped up sleeping on the front seat.



Washington, D.C.

GOOD READING in the current Look is an item by John Polzer, captain of the University of Virginia football team, called, "Football Made a Gentleman Out of Me." Polzer tells how he makes $330 a year for playing at Virginia, but says it hasn't all been boodle and skittles, particularly in view of his small-town Pennsylvania, reared-in-a-saloon background. Polzer seems now to have cleared the worst hurdles and hopes he is on his way to an Army reserve commission and some professional football. Preston Herndon helped him with the writing.

Also in Look is Leonard V. Finder's "Ike Will Not Run in 1956." This apparently was written before the President's attack and thus its head of steam is pretty well shot.

• • •

FAN MAIL DEPT.: Louise Lawrence of Alexandria and Morton S. Raff of Silver Spring have taken exception to a note I had here about an article in Holiday written by "somebody named Jade Snow Wong." Miss (Mrs.?) Lawrence cut me badly with thrusts like, "Have you by chance ever been to San Francisco?" Anyway, both these loyal readers give me to understand that Jade Snow Wong not only is very big in Chinese cookery, but also is the author of a fine autobiography titled, "Fifth Chinese Daughter." Cease, friends.

• • •

"DIXIECRAT IN WASHINGTON," in the Saturday Evening Post, is about Sen. Thurmond of South Carolina. It's by Ashley Halsey Jr.

DONALD DRESDEN of Washington has a nicely-written piece in this week's New Yorker. All about a trip from Paris to Grasse.

"IN MEMORIAM, EMMETT TILL" is the title of one of Life's editorials this week. "Men can be forgiven prejudice," it says in part, "as a sign of ignorance or imperfect understanding of their religion; no righteous man can condone a brutal murder. Those . . . who condone it, are in far worse danger than Emmett Till ever was. He had only his life to lose. . . . Those who condone a deed so foul as this are in danger of losing their souls." It's quite an editorial!

ONE OF THE sports magazines—Field and Stream—began to get worried about whether public hunting was, as it puts it, "doomed." So it sent two good men, Frank Dufresne and Ted Trueblood, abroad into the land to find out the clear word.



They found that in the West there's all the hunting you want. In other issues, the magazine will report on the kill-for-fun situation in other areas.

• • •

THE ENTIRE fall issue of the Antioch Review is devoted to "Education: Now and to Come." Among the contributors are Algo D. Henderson, Stringfellow Barr and Harold Taylor.

• • •

THE OCTOBER issue of House Beautiful is THIS thick and must weigh a stone. One of the articles is Robert Mosher's fall report on prefabricated houses.

• • •

COLLEGE EDUCATION and how to finance it: See James W. Hampton's item about scholarships, self-help plans and work-study programs in the October Good Housekeeping.

• • •

CRYSTAL BALL DEPT.: "Thomas Dewey, twice the Republican presidential nominee, is so committed to private practice of law, and is realizing income so large, that he isn't now considering a return to politics."—U. S. News & World Report. "Darkest dark horse in the GOP presidential sweepstake is Gen. Alfred Gruenther, Eisenhower's top wartime planner, one of his closest friends, and now in Paris as NATO commander."—Newsweek.

• • •

COVER MAN on this week's Time is Richard M. Nixon. (Last week it was Casey Stengel, and any conclusions you draw are your own.) The major item in Time is a fine text and pictures presentation called "Westward to the Sea: The Trail of Lewis & Clark."

EMMETT TILL KIDNAP-MURDER CASE PHOTOS NOW ON SALE IN PAMPHLET FORM!

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Memphis, Tennessee

Plan D. C. March To Protest Till

Defender
Sat. 10-22-55

...urch on Washington Committee was organized last week to send a delegation to the nation's capital to urge Congress to convene for a special session to adopt civil rights legislation

The Rev. C. W. Harding, pastor of Victory Baptist church, was elected chairman of the committee. He is on tour to help organize and coordinate activities of delegations from New York, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit and Mound Bayou, Miss.

P. 3

The Mississippi delegation is expected to join the Chicago delegation and then proceed to the nation's capital.

Chicago, Ill.

5,000 TO MARCH

More than 5,000 persons are supposed to gether in Washington by Sunday, Oct. 23. The local delegation will be given a send-off at a mass meeting at the Rose Bowl, 4724 Cottage Grove at p.m. Oct. 22.

The meeting is open to the public.

The march on Washington will take the form of an auto caravan.

It was decided on after 14-year-old Emmett Till was murdered near Money, Miss., and the two white men charged with his murder were acquitted.

Sponsors of the movement are the Baptist Ministers Alliance, the National Crusade for Christ, the Congress Organizations, the United Church Council and the American Negro magazine.

Besides Rev. Harding, other officers of the committee include:

Rev. Samuel Harden, pastor, of Morning Star Baptist church; vice chairman; the Rev. A. L. Marks, pastor of First Omega Community Baptist church, vice chairman; the Rev. R. B. Mills, assistant pastor, Victory Baptist church, vice chairman;

Augustus Savage, editor of The American Negro magazine, chairman of Publicity Committee; Jesse Reiger, chairman of Transportation Finance Committee, and the Rev. M. Ford Jordan, executive secretary.

Emmett Till's Mother Tells 6,100 of Killing

Defender
Chicago Edition
Sat. 10-22-55
Washington D. C.

The mother of Emmett Till stood up before two big Washington audiences yesterday and told the story of the 14-year-old Negro bay who was kidnaped and killed in Mississippi.

The appearances of Mrs. Mamie Bradley of Chicago attracted a huge throng to Uline Arena, so many, in fact, that fire marshals and police turned thousands away.

In a voice barely audible over a faulty microphone system, Mrs. Bradley said she was so stunned by the news of Emmett's kidnaping and the subsequent report of his death that she did not know what to do. She turned for solace to her mother and constant prayer.

The mother said the appeals of friends and relatives for help from the White House, the FBI, the State of Illinois and the Chicago city government were unavailing because they had no jurisdiction.

Wants White House Interview

After the speech, Mrs. Bradley told reporters she hoped she could get an interview with some official at the White House during her stay in Washington.

Emmett Till was kidnaped and killed while vacationing in Mississippi in August. A white woman testified he had wolf-whistled at her and tried to embrace her. Two white men were tried for murder and acquitted by a jury, members of which said they had doubt about the identification of the body offered as Till's. The two defendants still face kidnap charges.

Mrs. Bradley is making a series of public appearances throughout the United States, urging citizens to "fight for right" at the ballot box, through churches and schools and elsewhere.

She has spoken in Cleveland, New York, New Jersey, St. Louis, Chicago and Washington. Next Sunday she will be in Des Moines.

The mass meetings here yesterday were called by the Rev. Smallwood Williams, pastor of the Bible Way Church, in his capacity as founder and director of "the National Prayer Mobilization Association Against Racial Tyranny and Intolerance in Mississippi and Elsewhere."

Second Meeting Held

When the 6,100 seats of Uline Arena were filled for the afternoon meeting, fire marshals and police closed the doors. They estimated that at least 2,500 persons were turned away. But many of these were in the crowd that went to a second, special meeting in the arena last night. At that time, a sermon was delivered by Bishop Isaiah Roberts of Chicago.

Responding to an appeal by Mr. Williams, many in the audiences marched from their seats up the aisles to donate $10, $5 and $1 bills to a fund to defray expenses, promote other anti-discrimination meetings and help relatives of Emmett Till move from Mississippi to Chicago.

The audience adopted resolutions calling upon the Federal Government to undertake a complete investigation of the Till kidnap-killing and urging the Justice Department to bring those guilty to justice.

Wants Senate Hearing

Mr. Williams demanded in a talk that Senator Hennings, Democrat of Missouri, call Mrs. Bradley and others as witnesses before his Senate subcommittee on constitutional rights.

Among those participating in the meetings yesterday were the Bible Way Chorus, Mrs. Mattie P. Shelton, Mrs. Aileen Moore, Tilford Dudley, representing the CIO; Roy Garvin, Miss Pearl Williams, Dr. Walter Gray of the Baptist Ministers' Conference, Rev. Walter L. Simpson, Dr. W. H. Jernigen and Dr. B. F. Harris, past president of the Federation of Civic Associations.

Senator To Meet Mrs. Mamie Bradley, Mother Of Till

Defender
Chicago Ed.
Sat. 10-22-55

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(NNPA)—Senator Thomas C. Hennings, of Missouri, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights, plans to hear Mrs. Mamie Bradley of Chicago, mother of 14-year old Emmett Louis Till, who was brutally murdered and tossed into the Tallahatchie River, near Greenwood, Mississippi the Senator's office said Wednesday.

Mrs. Bradley spoke at a mass meeting and and the Reverend Smallwood Williams, pastor of the Bible Way Church which sponsored the rally, requested Senator Hennings to give Mrs. Bradley a hearing the next day.

Donate $10,000 At Till Rally In Los Angeles

Defender
Sat. 10-22-55

LOS ANGELES — (ANP) — Some 5,000 persons jammed inside the Second Baptist church and an equal number stood outside in a meeting protesting the lynch-murder of Emmett Till. About $10,000 was donated.

P. 3

The meeting was punctuated by screams and occasional outcries of elderly women as Dr. T. R. M. Howard, of Mississippi, related facts and details about what he termed the "cruel, desperate and deadly" treatment of Negroes in his home state.

Chicago, Ill.

Said Dr. Howard: "How many of you within my sight and the sound of my voice are enjoying the luxury of Cadillacs, safe, comfortable home, and the privilege to vote, while thousands of your brothers in blood live in constant fear of their lives?"

It was Dr. Howard's dramatic recital of the horror of the Till murder, as told him by an eye-witness, that caused many of the women present to break into open weeping.

The speaker impressed on his audience the need for determination and courage and told them of their obligation to the people of Mississippi, who are showing unyielding courage.

Others on the program included Dr. Raymond Henderson, pastor the Second Baptist church;; Atty. Thomas G. Neusome, president of the local NAACP; Loren Miller, the Rev. A. A. Peters, and several singing groups.

Funds raised here and in other such meetings over the country, will be used to bring law suits against the state of Mississippi until something is done to break up the terror, the freezing of loans to Negroes, and the barring of Negro voters, according to Dr. Howard.

Movie star Lil Randolph, who was scheduled to speak at the meeting, did not appear. The program was delayed for some time because of her absence.

MISS. 'IGNORANT' TILL RALLY TOLD

Times Picayune
'Full of Bigotry,' State Negro Speakers
Tues. 10-25-55

(The Associated Press)

Negro speakers at Emmett Till rallies throughout the nation Sunday branded Mississippi as "ignorant," full of "bigotry and race hatred," and a "reign of terror."

The mother of Till, Rep. Charles C. Diggs (D-Mich) and Dr. Theodore R. M. Howard of Mound Bayou, Miss., spoke as the NAACP steamed ahead in its fund collecting drive.

New Orleans

The National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People has been holding rallies protesting the acquittal of two Mississippi white men of charges of murdering 14-year-old Till, a Chicago Negro boy visiting Mississippi last August.

Sunday's round of rallies took in Mobile, Ala., Pittsburgh and Des Moines.

Mrs. Mamie Bradley of Chicago told the Des Moines group that her boy's body "looked as though all the hatred and all the scorn ever had for a Negro was taken out on that child."

During the trial, defense attorneys contended the body was not Till's.

'Mission in Life'

"It has come to me that this was his mission in life," said Mrs. Bradley, "that he was only sent here for a short time. If I thought Emmett Louis Till was going to live in vain, I wouldn't have anything to live for. But now I have millions of children to live for."

At Pittsburgh, Dr. Howard said "forces of bigotry and race hatred" are conducting a reign of terror in his native Mississippi. He called on the federal government to investigate the Till slaying and what he called other recent killings.

"As long as they lynch Negroes in Mississippi," Howard said, "no Negro under the Stars and Stripes is secure."

Rep. Diggs at Mobile also claimed "Negroes are experiencing a daily reign of terror in ignorant Mississippi."

The congressman said "my personal risk in going to Sumner (site of the trial) was nothing compared to the risk of democratic principles involved in that trial."

'Tremendous Interest'

Diggs stirred a large Negro audience estimated at more than 1,000 persons, to repeated and noisy applause as he proclaimed his views on racial matters.

"I regret," Diggs said, "that it took the death of a 14-year-old boy to bring out this crowd. I am here because of the tremendous interest in the situation in Mississippi and what it symbolizes."

Diggs referred to the fact that he was the first Negro congressman to visit Mobile in 25 years, and he voiced hope that "The day will come when a Negro congressman is no longer looked upon as a freak of nature."

He praised Gov. G. Mennen Williams of Michigan, a Democrat, for his refusal to speak at a recent Birmingham, Ala., dinner because Negroes were not admitted.

Newspapers came in for criticism also when Diggs commented "They can keep their tears on the Till case to themselves unless they are ready to translate their moral indignation into a program to stop this sort of thing."

He admonished his Negro listeners against "being stampeded into mass migration" and promised "we will get justice in the South one of these days."

8790

Willie Reed Gets $1,000 Elk Grant

Defender
Sat. 11-12-55

In response to a request made by William H. Huff, attorney, the Department of Education of the Elks lodge has granted a $1,000 scholarship to Willie Reed, 18, who testified in the Till murder trial in Sumner, Miss., and then had to flee for his life. P. 4

George W Lee, grand commissioner of education of the Elks, wrote Huff from Memphis, Tenn., and said in part:

"We are happy to grant the scholarship to Willie Reed. It will be on a basis of $250 a year covering a period of four years. . .I feel that this young hero stands as a symbol of our unquenchable faith in God and man.

"Even the tragedy at Money and Sumner, Miss., could not put out the light of our hope and faith that all men wish to be free and would struggle, even against odds, to stand up for freedom and justice.

"I feel that this young man is a living symbol of our conviction that no tyrant ever could for long starve or torture average men out of that dream.

"Today and tomorrow average men, young and old, are carrying the light of hope a little nearer to the goal of Washington, John Brown, Lincoln and Douglass.

"Our Elks Department of Education is resolved that this march towards real democracy shall attain its goal," Lee said.

Willie Reed to get $1,000 grant

Afro-American
Sat. 11-5-55

Elks to aid Till case witness, 18

Baltimore
P. 4

CHICAGO — "We (the Elks) will be happy to grant a $1,000 scholarship to Willie Reed, 18, the boy who covered himself with glory in the Till murder trial at Sumner, Miss."

This was a part of the message William Henry Huff, NAACP attorney and legal counsel for Mrs. Mamie Bradley, mother of the slain Emmett Till, received last week from George W. Lee, Elks grand commissioner of education.

Reed is the colored youth who along with Moses Wright, uncle of Emmett, dared to take the witness stand at the murder trial of Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam, Bryant's brother-in-law, and point out the men as those who, at gunpoint, took Emmett out of his uncle's home to "teach him a lesson" for wolf-whistling at Bryant's store-clerk wife.

Till's battered body was fished from the Tallahatchie River three days later.

* * *

BECAUSE HE was courageous enough to testify against white men in a crime against a colored boy in the South, Willie had to be spirited out of Mississippi, himself, at the trial's end, because he might be lynched by the men acquitted in the Till slaying or by their friends.

The youth is currently living in Chicago, where he is under the supervision of Mr. Huff, who was responsible for securing the scholarship.

In making available the $1,000 educational grant to Reed, Mr. Lee advised that the money would be given on the basis of $250 per year, covering the period of four years. Willie would name the school he would attend and the Elks would notify this school at once about the scholarship.

Mr. Lee noted in his letter advising of the grant:

"I feel that this young man is a living symbol of our conviction that no tyrant ever could, for long, starve or torture average men out of their dreams for freedom and justice."



WILLIAM HENRY HUFF

Establish scholarship fund for Willie Reed

Afro-American
Sat. 11-5-55

NEW YORK (AP) — A scholarship fund for Willie Reed, the courageous youngster who testified at the Mississippi murder trial of Emmett Louis Till, was begun here last Sunday by Bishop Robert Haynes of the Cosmopolitan Community church. P. 21

The fund was initiated after Reed appeared at the church last Sunday with William Henry Huff and Brewster McCauley.

Huff said contributions to the "Willie Reed Scholarship Fund" should be sent to the national office of the NAACP in New York.

Start Drive To Raise Funds For Till Victim

Defender
Chicago Ill.
Sat. 11-5-55

NEW YORK — Initial funds for the establishing of a scholarship for Willie Reed, witness in the Emmett L. Till murder trial, were raised here last week. P. 3

Bishop Robert Hynes of Cosmopolitan Community church, initiated the drive to raise funds for the scholarship.

Reed, Atty. William Henry Huff and Brewster McCauley were here last week to confer with Bishop Hynes concerning the drive.

Huff, an attorney for Mrs. Mamie Bradley, mother of Till, said funds for the scholarship should be sent to the national office of the NAACP, addressed for the "Willie Reed Scholarship Fund".

20,000 Attend Till Rally in New York

Call
Fri. 10-21-55

NEW YORK. — Roy Wilkins, NAACP executive secretary, told 20,000 persons at a rally in the garment district here this week that the national administration should send its widely-publicized "team" to Mississippi to clean up the racist-dominated state.

P-1

The rally was called by District 65, Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union-CIO, jointly with the NAACP, to protest the Mississippi lynching of 14-year-old Emmett Till.

Kansas City

In addition to Mr. Wilkins, speakers included Rep. Adam Clayton Powell (D.-N.Y.), Rabbi Israel Goldstein, president of the American Jewish Congress; Msgr. Cornelius J. Drew, pastor of St. Charles Roman Catholic Church in New York; and the Rev. Donald Harrington, minister of the Community Church here. Also addressing the rally were David Livingston, Arthur Osman and Cleveland Robinson, officers of District 65.

Mr. Wilkins termed a Mississippi jury trial which acquitted the two white kidnappers of murdering Emmett Till "a travesty, a farce, a joke so far as it demonstrated the American principle of trial by jury to secure a just verdict."

Powell Urges Boycott

A national boycott of "everything made in Mississippi" was urged by Rep. Powell, who offered to read a list of Mississippi-made products into the Congressional Record as well as to give other publicity to such a list. The suggestion was cheered loudly by the crowd.

In other proposals for action against Mississippi, scene of widespread terror tactics against Negroes, the New York Congressman called for a "new Underground Railroad" to bring Negro murder witnesses out of Mississippi to "free soil" where they could give information without fear of death, a march on Washington to demand an emergency session of Congress for the purpose of enacting anti-lynch legislation, and the organization of a new political party dedicated to civil rights for all citizens if the existing major parties fail to take effective action.

The Congressman told a cheering crowd he will introduce a resolution on the opening day of Congress to deny Congressional seats to representatives of states which refuse to allow Negroes "to freely exercise their franchise without fear of lynching or coercion of any kind." He asked for "a flood of letters" to Congressional members demanding passage of the resolution.

Call

The Catholic, Jewish and Protestant clergymen asked for wide support of the NAACP.

Funds for Civil Rights Work

P-1

During the past week more than $1,300 has been contributed to the NAACP to carry on its fight for civil rights in Mississippi and the rest of the South. The funds came from the crowd at the New York rally, from District 65 in a donation made prior to the rally, and from other individuals and organizations.

Letters denouncing the racial situation in Mississippi, some of them enclosing a donation for the work of the Association, continue to pour into NAACP headquarters. One person who identifies himself as "a former delegate to the United National Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization," declares in a message:

"... having traveled in Europe and Asia during a period of several years, I have been ashamed to have to admit to what goes on in Mississippi in the form of what you so rightly call 'racial tyranny.' I wish you success in the slow process of overcoming such racial policies."

Mrs. Bradley Coming In W. Coast Rally Tour

Sat. 10-22-55
P-3

SAN FRANCISCO — Mrs. Mamie Bradley, mother of Emmett Till, will appear with Ruby Hurley, NAACP Southeast Regional secretary, at a series of "protest rallies" from Seattle to San Diego beginning Nov. 9, the association's West Coast Regional office announced this week.

Pittsburgh

Mrs. Bradley and Miss Hurley will speak at mass meetings in Seattle, Nov. 9; Portland, Nov. 10; Sacramento, Nov. 11; Oakland and San Francisco, Nov. 13; San Diego, Nov. 15; Santa Monica, Nov. 18; Phoenix, Nov. 19; and Las Vegas, Nov. 20.

Nationwide Meetings to Raise Funds to Help Fight Injustices in Mississippi

By Louise Page
Des Moines, Iowa
Thurs. 10-20-55
P-1

Mrs. Mamie E. Bradley of Chicago, mother of 14-year-old Emmett Till, for whose death two white men were tried and acquitted in Mississippi last month, will speak at Willkie House here at 3 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 23.

Sponsoring the mass meeting will be the Fighting Fund for Freedom Committee of the Des Moines branch of the NAACP.

Music for the meeting will be offered by a choir from St. Paul AME church; and, Ernest (Spec) Redd, pianist.

Colors will be advanced by Argonne Post of the American Legion.

The Rabbi Isaac Nadoff of the Bethel Jacob Synagogue will deliver the invocation.

NAACP branches throughout the U. S. have been holding mass meetings for the purpose of raising funds to fight injustice in Mississippi and other parts of the South, according to reports from the national office.

A national representative of the NAACP has been invited to attend the meeting.

Attends Trial

Mrs. Bradley attended the recent murder trial in Sumner, Miss., of two white half-brothers, Roy Bryant, 23, and John W. Milam, 36, who were acquitted by an all-white, all-male jury of murdering her son.

The defendants were identified as the men who came to the Mose Wright home in Sumner, at 2 a.m. and spirited away the Till boy who was spending the summer vacation with relatives.

Bryant and Milam were accused of murdering the boy because he allegedly whistled at Mrs. Bryant. They were tried for the murder in Tallahatchie County, because a body found there, that was identified as Till's. A ring taken from the finger of the body bore the initials "L.T."

Mrs. Bradley, the widowed mother, said it was her husband's and the boy put it on before catching the train for his vacation in the south.



MRS. MAMIE E. BRADLEY

5,000 Donate To Till Rally

Daily World
Sun. 10-16-55
P-1

LOS ANGELES—(A N P)—Some 5,000 persons jammed inside the Second Baptist Church and an equal number stood outside in a meeting protesting the lynch-murder of Emmett Till.

The meeting was punctuated by screams and occasional screams from elderly women as Dr. T. R. M. Howard, of Mississippi, related facts and details about what he termed the "cruel, desperate and deadly" treatment of Negroes in his home state.

Atlanta Daily

Said Dr. Howard: "How many of you within my sight and the sound of my voice are enjoying the luxury of Cadillacs, safe, comfortable homes and the privilege to vote, while thousands of your brothers in blood live in constant fear of their lives?"

It was Dr. Howard's dramatic recital of the horror of the Till murder, as told him by an eye-witness, that caused many of the women present to break into open weeping.

The speaker impressed on his audience the need for determination and courage and told them of their obligation to the people of Mississippi, who are showing unyielding courage.

Others on the program included Dr. Raymond Henderson, pastor of the Second Baptist Church; Atty. Thomas G. Neusome, president of the local NAACP; Loren Miller, the Rev. A. A. Peters and several singing groups.

Funds raised here and in other such meetings over the country, will be used to bring law suits against the state of Mississippi until something is done to break up the terror, the freezing of loans to Negroes and the barring of Negro voters, according to Dr. Howard.

Movie star Lil Randolph, who was scheduled to speak at the meeting, did not appear. The program was delayed for sometime because of her absence.

5,000 Give $10,000 at Till Rally

Los Angeles Church Jammed For Big Meeting

LOS ANGELES — (ANP) — Some 5,000 persons jammed inside the Second Baptist church and an equal number stood outside in a meeting protesting the lynch-murder of Emmett Till.

The meeting was punctuated by screams and occosional screams from elderly women as Dr. T. R. M. Howard, of Mississippi, related fact and details about what he termed the "cruel, desparate and deadly" treatment of Negroes in his home state.

Said Dr. Howard: "How many of you within the sight and the sound of my voice are enjoying the luxury of Cadillacs, safe, comfortable homes, and the privilege to vote, while thousands of your brothers in blood live in constant fear of their lives?"

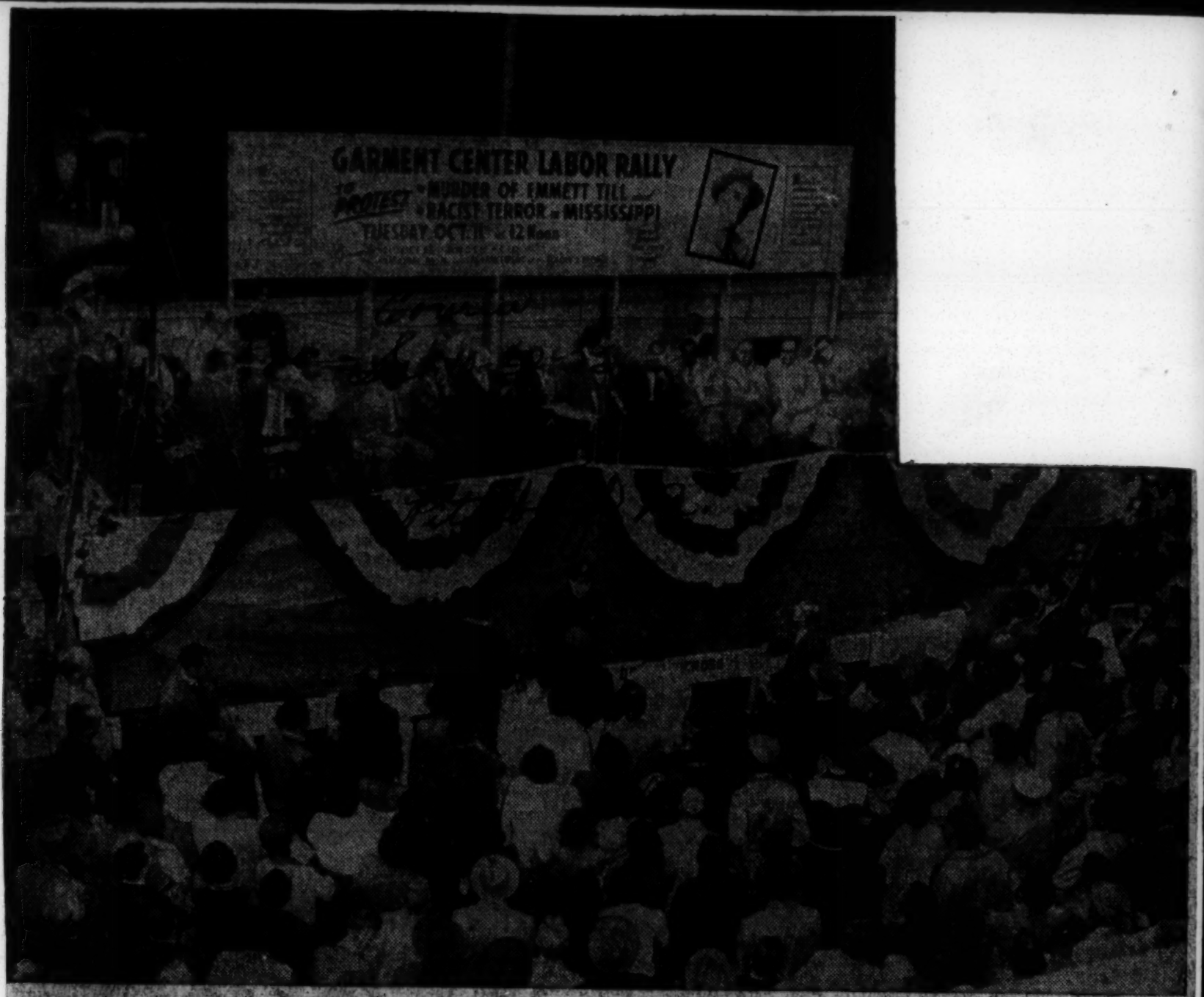
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Movie star Lil Randolph, who was scheduled to speak at the meeting, did not appear. The program was delayed for sometime because of her absence.



Protest Crowd—A street audience of 20,000 listen to Congressman Adam Clayton Powell urge a national "boycott of everything made in Mississippi," at a rally in the garment district protesting the lynching of Emmett Till. The rally was sponsored by the NAACP and District 65, Wholesale and Department Store Union-CIO—Layne Photo.

Till Trial Hit

NYC Street Rally Brings Out 20,000

NEW YORK — More than 20,000 persons in a street of New York's garment center heard Congressman Adam Clayton Powell urge a national boycott of "everything made in Mississippi" at a rally sponsored by the NAACP and District 65, Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union-CIO, in protest of the murder of Emmett Till and "racist terror in Mississippi."

Congressman Powell called for a "new Underground Railroad" to bring Negro murder witnesses out of Mississippi to "free soil," a march on Washington to demand an emergency session of Congress for the purpose of enacting anti-lynch legislation, and the organization of a new political party dedicated to civil rights for all citizens, if the existing major parties fail to take effective action.

He said he will introduce a resolution on the opening day of Congress to deny congressional seats to representatives of states that refuse to allow Negroes "to freely exercise their franchise without fear of lynching or coercion of any kind." He asked for a flood of letters to congressional members demanding passage of the resolution.

CALLING THE Mississippi jury trial which acquitted two white kidnappers of murdering young Till "a travesty, a farce, a joke," Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the NAACP, said that the national administration should send its widely publicized "team" to Mississippi to clean up the racist-dominated state.

Other speakers were Rabbi Israel Goldstein, president of the American Jewish Congress; Msgr. Cornelius J. Drew, pastor of St. Charles RC Church, and the Rev. Donald Harrington, minister of the Community Church. David Livingston, Arthur Osman and Cleveland Robinson, officers of District 65, also addressed the rally.

8792

Says Till Funds Given To Kin

Defender Chicago Ill.
Sat. 11-26-55

NEW YORK — The NAACP announced this week that all funds designated for the mother of young Emmett Till, Mississippi's recent lynch victim were turned over to Mrs. Mamie Bradley as they were received.

The statement was made by Henry Lee Moon, director of publicity for the association. Moon was speaking in response to statements made by Mrs. Anna B. Crockett that Mrs. Bradley had endorsed three checks over to the NAACP.

Mrs. Crockett has been acting as spokesman and secretary to Mrs. Bradley, mother of the slain youth.

DODGE CONTROVERSY

"We do not wish to enter into a controversy over the matter," Moon said, "but for the sake of clarification it must be stated that we have not withheld any funds intended for Mrs. Bradley.

"We are sure that had Mrs. Bradley been questioned directly this misunderstanding would not have occurred."

Moon said the NAACP has a record of the money turned over to Mrs. Bradley, but refused to disclose the amount.

In the meantime from her home in Chicago, Mrs. Bradley, again denied that she had demanded a $5,000 fee for her West Coast appearance and expressed a willingness to become reconciled with the NAACP.

She wrote a letter to this effect to Roy Wilkins. However, his answer was a polite "no". He added, however, that the NAACP was going to continue to fight to make the South a safe place for Negroes and a place for Negroes to get better educaiton and first class citizenship.

Say He Saw Lynching In Mississippi

Call
Fri. 11-25-55
P. 7

But NAACP Finds Philadelphia Man Is Common Thief

Kansas City

PHILADELPHIA. — (ANP) — A man posing as an eye-witness to the Emmett Till lynching in Mississippi was found to be an im- by the vice-president of the Philadelphia branch NAACP last week.

PMC.

Melvin Cuff, who said he was the "missing witness," was later found to be a common thief by George Morris, NAACP vice president.

Morris, who reported Cuff to the police, said the man stole two suits of clothing from a hotel here, then checked out without telling his destination. The theft convinced Morris, who had been made suspicious earlier, that the man was not who he claimed to be.

Cuff appealed to the NAACP for help on arriving in town, claiming himself to be the "missing witness" in the Till case. In an effort to help him, Morris took the man to the Lorraine hotel. At first, the clerk refused to admit the man because of his shabby appearance. But the pleas of Morris finally won out.

Registered as Milton Cuff the imposter was housed with another guest at the hotel. A day later, the clerk called Morris and explained that Cuff had stolen two suits and fled.

Morris checked further with Dr. U. S. Wiggins, president of the Camden, N. J., branch of the NAACP and learned that the man who had come to him posing as the missing witness closely followed the description of "Mr. Cuff" even down to the missing left eye.

Deeply Hurt By NAACP Rebuke

Defender Chicago Ill.
Nov. 19-55

Mrs. Mamie Bradley, is in semi-seclusion. She has been shying away from newspapermen and public appearances since the NAACP recently rebuked her for allegedly asking $5,000 fee for for public speaking engagements.

However, before she went into her shell, Mrs. Bradley, mother of the slain Emmett Till, in talking to the Defender disclaimed any effort at trying to capitalize financially on the notoriety that the slaying of her son in Mississippi brought to her.

Both she and NAACP officials are willing to concede now that faulty communications was responsible fpeht robe tnre rapa aekbsible for the apparent break between her and tne association.

There is a growing feeling in Chicago, if nowhere else, that recent events have conspired to give a wrong picture of this woman.

Once the object of universal sympathy because of the brutal slaying of her son, and the subsequent mishandling of the cases by the courts of Mississippi, Mrs. Bradley, of late, has been the target of some rather cynical remarks and some ugly insinuations.

NEWSMEN COMPLAIN

Some newsmen have complained that she has changed from a simple grief-stricken mother to an arrogant celebrity full of her own importance. Others have charged that she has become greedy and anxious to "cash in" on the misfortune that befell her son.

There has been some deliberate misrepresentation of Mrs. Bradley, especially by the southern white press which apparently feels that by discrediting her they are removing themselves from blame in the case.

Defender

The public, too, is fickle. Almost everyone who is thrust into the sharp limelight of national attention goes through cycles of popularity and criticism.

P. 12

Unlike a number of people in public life Mrs. Bradley was ill-prepared for public life. She was just a plain, ordinary woman working as a clerk for a federal agency and not unlike the hundreds of others employed in her office.

She is a sensitive woman as dicated by her almost complete withdrawal after Roy Wilkins announced that her west coast tour was cancelled. The announcement hit her hard and she hasn't recovered yet.

Newsmen who have known her ever since the tragedy are inclined to believe that she has been misrepresented by those she trusted and that she is being exploited by these same people.

MAKE DEMANDS

Persons expected to perform little services for her because of their kinship or avowed friendship are, reportedly, charging her, or making other financial demands which she is trying to meet.

It is they, rather than she, who are interested in financially exploiting the case, and they are advising her along lines that will be profitable to them, it is charged.

NAACP Asks: Who Did Kill Emmett Till?

N.Y. World-Telegram + Sun

By the Associated Press.

GREENWOOD, Miss., Nov. 10.—An official of the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People wants to know what happened to Emmett Louis Till, the 14-year-old Chicago Negro boy who disappeared Aug. 28 in Mississippi. But a county prosecutor says he considers the case closed.

A Leflore County grand jury yesterday declined to indict white half-brothers Roy Bryant, 24, and J. W. Milam, 36, on charges of kidnaping Till from the cabin of his sharecropper uncle.

Thurs. 11-10-55
P. 14

"That's the end of the case as far as this county is concerned," said DA Stanny Sanders after the grand jury decision was announced.

Previous Acquittal.

Less than a month ago, a trial jury in a neighboring county found the two half-brothers innocent of murdering young Till on the ground there was reasonable doubt about identification of a battered body pulled from the Tallahatchie River.

New York
P. 9

"The question now arises," said executive secretary Roy Wilkins of the NAACP in a statement in New York, "since Mississippi jurors have determined that Milam and Bryant did not kidnap and murder young Till, who did commit the crimes?"

Mother's Comment.

The Till boy's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley of Chicago, commented: "Just about everything has run out on me now. I don't know what to say. I don't see how they could fail to indict those men."

8793

2 'Wolf-Whistle' Witnesses Back

Post-Herald
Tues., 11-8-55

Uncle Of Slain Boy And Farm Worker Return As Grand Jury Gets 'Kidnaping'

p. 1

GREENWOOD, Miss., Nov. 7 (U.P.)—Two witnesses from the "Wolf Whistle" murder trial arrived today when a grand jury took up kidnaping evidence against two white men acquitted of the actual slaying of a young Chicago Negro.

Moses Wright and Willie Reed, Negroes, reported to Sheriff George Smith of LeFlore County on summons from Chicago as potential witnesses in a further chapter of the racial case.

The LeFlore Grand Jury, an all-white body, was to consider kidnaping charges against Roy Bryant, 24, and his half-brother, J. W. Milam, 36, after disposing of other "routine" business.

Birmingham

Bryant and Milam, his half-brother, were acquitted of murdering 14-year-old Emmett Till Sept. 24 after a five-day trial in Sumner, Miss. The slaying allegedly was motivated by Till's "wolf-call" to Bryant's pretty wife.

Ala.

It was not known when Wright and Reed would report to the jury. Dist. Atty. Stanney Sanders said the testimony of Wright, who identified the two white men as the abductors of Till, would not necessarily be needed.

The Till case burgeoned into one of the decade's most widely publicized race incidents after the boy's abduction Aug. 28 from the farm home of Wright, his uncle, during a visit. He was kidnaped for allegedly insulting Mrs. Bryant at a store operated by the couple in the nearby Money community.

Three days later, a body was pulled from the Tallahatchie River and identified by Wright as Till's. The corpse had been weighted down by a heavy piece of cotton gin machinery, beaten and shot through the head.

Several members of the jury trying Bryant and Milam for murder said the acquittal verdict was returned because the state failed to prove identity of the body, although Mamie Bradley of Chicago, Till's mother, had identified it as her son's.

Wright, 65, testified Bryant and Milam were the armed men who took Till from his home. The prosecution sought to show from the testimony of Reed, an 18-year-old plantation laborer, that Milam was seen with a boy who resembled Till shortly after the kidnapping.

Both Bryant and Milam claimed they released Till unharmed after discovering he "was not the one" who insulted Mrs. Bryant. The two men were released under $10,000 bond each a week after their acquittal.

'Witness' in the Till case flees

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.
Sat. 11-12-55

CAMDEN, N.J. — Dr. Ulysses S. Wiggins, NAACP branch president, listened Friday to the story of a man who claimed to be a fugitive witness in the Mississippi Till slaying.

But after the man jumped off a Philadelphia train which was taking him to the national headquarters in NYC, Dr. Wiggins branded him "a phony and impostor."

P. 22

Taken to Dr. Wiggins' office at 1025 S. Fourth St. by an unidentified passer-by, the "confessed fugitive" from Mississippi identified himself as Melvin Cook. He appeared to be in his late 30's, and said he was the last person to have seen the 14-year-old Till boy alive in Mississippi.

* * *

HE SAID that when this fact became known, he was thrown in jail without benefit of contacting relatives, friends or a lawyer.

He said that he "dug his way out of the jail" and by "laying low in the daytime", he made his way north in the night, as far as Camden.

Dr. Wiggins, though feeling some doubt about the story, felt it best to notify the national NAACP headquarters.

* * *

HE TELEPHONED Executive Secretary Roy Wilkins in New York, who directed him to buy a train ticket to New York for the man to come to that office.

Mrs. Bernice Napper of the national headquarters who happens to be in Camden directing the current membership drive, was in Dr. Wiggins' office at the time. Planning to go to New York, she volunteered to take the man to Mr. Wilkins.

The ticket was purchased and Dr. Wiggins took the two to the Pennsylvania Railroad station in Philadelphia.

* * *

BUT MRS. NAPPER arrived in New York without her charge. She reported that shortly after being seated on the train, the man said he didn't know that anything would really be done to help him.

Although she tried to explain that he was being taken to the NAACP director, he jumped from the train and fled just as it pulled off.

get," he said. Negroes "have their rights just like anyone else and if they won't talk I can't make them."

An all - white grand jury Wednesday refused to indict Milam and Bryant on charges they kidnapped Till from the home of Moses Wright, an uncle he was siting, for allegedly insulting Bryant's wife. The two men were acquitted of the youth's murder last September.

Dist. Atty. Stanny Sanders said he had received "no cooperation" from the witnesses. Till's mother, Mamie Bradley, of Chicago, refused to appear at the grand jury session, he said, nor would she permit two nephews who were visiting Wright at the time of the kidnaping to return to Mississippi.

Herald-Post

Smith commented: "I don't think they the Negroes wanted an indictment. They want something to hold up as an example of injustice to keep attacking us on."

Although the two men were cleared of all state charges in the widely publicizee race case, the furor lingered.

It was, in the words of Pulitzer Prize Editor Hodding Carter, a "miscarriage of justice" but was "not unique."

In an editorial in the Greenville, Miss., Delta Democrat — Times, Carter wrote the jury "told the world that white men in Mississippi may remove Negroes from their homes against their will to punish them or worse without fear of punishment for themselves.

"That they admitted taking the boy from his uncle's home to punish him for insulting the wife of one of them meant nothing to the grand jury," the paper said. "Unfortunately, it is going to mean a great deal to Mississippi and none of it will be good."

Mississippi "wolf whistle" case.

Stratton wrote Brownell that Till, a Chicago youth, "was abducted and brutally murdered. It now appears that those responsible for this tragic crime are not being brought to justice."

He asked Brownell through the Justice Department to "investigate the violation of the rights of this Illinois citizen in another state."

A Leflore County, Mississippi, grand jury Wednesday refused to indict half brothers J. W. Milam, 36, and Roy Bryant, 24, for kidnaping the Till boy.

"Someone was guilty" of the boy's murder, Stratton told newsmen, "and I have a responsibility as governor of Illinois to protect the rights of our citizens."

He said he earlier had received assurance from the governor of Mississippi that every effort would be made to bring the youth's killer to justice.

"Somebody murdered that boy, and I don't think we should drop it now," Stratton said.

In Mississippi Case

News & Observer
Fri. Nov. 11-55

Sheriff Claims Negroes Didn't Want Indictment

p. 1

GREENWOOD, Miss., Nov. 10 (UP) A sheriff who investigated the Emmett Till kidnaping blamed reluctant Negro witnesses partly today for the refusal of a grand jury to indict two white men accused of abducting the 14-year-old Negro.

George Smith of Leflore County, who arrested half - brothers Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam shortly after Till was kidnapped Aug. 28, said he had a "hard time" getting statements from prosecution witnesses.

Raleigh N.C.

"I've been in this business for 22 years and I know what you can get and what you can't

U. S. ATTORNEY GENERAL ASKED TO PROBE DEATH

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Nov. 10 (UP)—Gov. William G. Stratton today asked U. S. Atty. Gen. Herbert Brownell Jr. to investigate the death of Emmett Till in the

Two Till kidnap witnesses back for Grand Jury

BY SAM JOHNSON

GREENWOOD, Miss., Nov. 8—(AP)—An elderly Negro sharecropper and a teen-age farm hand, who said they fled to Chicago for safety, are expected to testify today before a Grand Jury considering kidnaping charges in the famous Emmett Till case.

Testimony of Mose Wright, 64-year-old uncle of the 14-year-old Chicago Negro abducted by two white men, and 18-year-old Willie Reed forms the heart of the state's case against the two men.

The two Negroes arrived in Greenwood Sunday night from Chicago and said they had no fear of being harmed, although both said they fled Mississippi earlier for fear of being killed.

The Leflore County Grand Jury, working through a heavy docket yesterday, delayed until today consideration of kidnap charges against 24-year-old Roy Bryant and his half-brother, 36-year-old John W. Milam.

THE 20-MAN all-white Grand Jury will decide whether Bryant or Milam will stand trial. No Negroes were called on the 64-man jury panel from which the Grand Jury was picked.

Dist. Atty. Stanny Sanders said the jury's decision will be released in its final report, probably Wednesday.

The Grand Jury could indict them under one of two Mississippi kidnaping statutes. One provides the death penalty, the other carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison, in the event of conviction.

Bryant and Milam are free on $10,000 bond each.

A trial jury in adjoining Tallahatchie County found them innocent of murdering Till.

The trial, six weeks ago in nearby Sumner, was one of Mississippi's most famous cases.

WRIGHT AND REED fled Mississippi after testifying at the trial.

Wright said he plans to remain in Chicago. Reed plans to finish high school and then attend college on a $1000 scholarship given by the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People.

Wright identified Milam and Bryant as the two men who roused Till from bed about 2:30 a.m. on Aug. 28 and took him away because he allegedly made off-color remarks and wolf-whistled at Mrs. Bryant.

Reed testified that he saw Milam with Till several hours after Bryant and Milam said they released the Chicago Negro boy.

The scene was a plantation run by Milan's brother, Leslie Milam, Reed testified.

OFFICERS TESTIFIED that the two white men admitted taking Till from Wright's farm shack in nearby Money, but said they freed him unharmed when they found he was the wrong Negro.

A body was pulled from the Tallahatchie River three days later. Wright and the boy's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley of Chicago, identified it as Till's body.

But defense attorneys presented three witnesses, including a doctor and an undertaker, who said the body could not have been Till's because it had been in the water at least eight days.

Jurors said the contradictory identification figured strongly in their verdict of innocence.

The body was found in Tallahatchie County so the murder trial was held there. The alleged kidnaping occurred in Leflore County.

bravely into the mouth of Mississippi's infamous "Lion's Den," in a final effort to see justice done.

Both the national office of the NAACP (New York) and Atty. William Henry Huff of the Chicago NAACP Legal Redress Committee, assured the Courier that the important witnesses will be given "every possible protection."

• • •

IT IS KNOWN that Dr. T. R. M. Howard, the fighting "Man of God" from this state, was skeptical over the return of Reed.

In Chicago, Willie has been under constant police escort. He is living with his mother on the edge of a South Side slum area.

Moses Wright and his wife reside on Chicago's West Side.

Greenwood Tense But Willie and Mose Are There

By WILLIAM A. FOWLKES
(Courier Georgia Editor)

GREENWOOD, Miss.—Courage is a wonderful badge to wear! Nobody in America is wearing it more proudly this morning than 64-year-old Mose Wright, grand-uncle of slain 14-year-old Emmett Louis Till . . . and 18-year-old Willie Reed, known by his buddies as "Little Willie."

Because these men are in town to testify at the grand jury hearing, to determine whether or not J. W. Milam and Roy Bryant will be tried on kidnaping charges.

• • •

THE COURIER learned from reliable information that Mose Wright boarded an Illinois Central train from Chicago Sunday morning. When he arrived . . . where he was met . . . where he is staying . . . is shrouded in complete secrecy.

Reed consented to appear when he, along with "Uncle" Mose, was guaranteed "complete protection" by Mississippi officials.

He, too, left Chicago . . . secretly!

Thus . . . a 64-year-old man and an 18-year-old youth . . . march



—Associated Press Wirephoto

THESE TWO witnesses arrived in Greenwood, Miss., Monday from Chicago in answer to a summons to testify before a grand jury pondering whether to indict two White men for the kidnaping of Emmett Till, slain Chicago 14-year-old Negro. The witnesses are Mose Wright (right) and Willie Reed. There was no indication what their testimony would be in the echo of the famous "wolf whistle" murder case. The men, who could face kidnaping charges, are Roy Bryant, 24, and J. W. Milam, 36. They were acquitted recently of the murder of young Till.

8794

Till kidnapping Afro-American case up Nov. 7

Bal. 10-29-55

SUMNER, Miss.—The trial on kidnaping charges of Roy Bryant and J.W. Milam, recently exonerated of charges of murdering 14-year-old Emmett Louis Till, in the widely publicized lynching case, has been set for Nov. 7, here. 13

Till, on vacation from Chicago at the home of Moses Wright, his uncle, near Money, Miss., was taken away from his uncle's home at gunpoint, because he allegedly "wolf-whistled" at Bryant's wife; and his body was fished from the river near Sumner three days later.

The boy had been brutally beaten to death, shot, and a heavy iron plow share chain tied to his body in an effort to keep it from rising to the surface of the water.

Baltimore Md,

BRYANT AND MILAM, who were identified as the men who took Emmett from his uncle's home and who have admitted that they "took him out, frightened him, but left him unharmed," were acquitted of a murder charge by an all-white jury of male sharecroppers.

They still are being held on a charge of kidnaping the boy.

Their defense attorneys, supported by testimony from the deputy sheriff who handled the case, argued that the corpse fished from the river was not that of Emmett Till, although his mother journied all the way to Mississippi from Chicago to identify the body as that of her son.

Amid Rumors

Mississippi Defendants Facing Kidnap Charges

Advertiser
Fri. 9-30-55

GREENWOOD, Miss., Sept. 29 (AP)—Two white men accused of kidnaping a 14-year old Chicago Negro boy seek freedom on bonds tomorrow amid rumors that the boy, Emmett Louis Till, is alive.

The rumors were not confirmed. Mrs. Mamie Bradley, the lad's mother, today called them "a cruel hoax." P. 1

Around-the-clock police protection was provided in Chicago for two witnesses in last week's sensational murder trial of 24-year old Roy Bryant and his 36-year old half-brother, John W. Milam.

Seek Bond

Montgomery
A country jury at nearby Sumner last Friday found Bryant and Milam innocent of murdering the vacationing Chicago boy. They still face a kidnaping charge and will seek release on bond at tomorrow's hearing.

Contradictory identification of a body found in the Tallahatchie River heavily influenced the jury in freeing the men, and set off widespread speculation about Till's whereabouts if he is alive.

Mrs. Bradley said in Detroit, "I am willing to have my boy's body exhumed from the vault for a thorough examination if that would dispel these wild rumors.

"If he were alive, I would know. I don't know how this could come up."

Sheriff H. C. Strider said in nearby Charleston he had heard the rumors Till was alive in Detroit but "as far as knowing anything definite, I don't know it.

"I definitely believe he's somewhere, but I don't know where," the 270-pound sheriff added.

Strider and two other defense witnesses testified the body found in the river had been dead at least eight days. If they were correct, the body could not have been Till's. He was missing only three days when the body was found.

The boy's mother and Mose Wright, his sharecropper uncle, identified the body positively as Till's. The lad was abducted from Wright's cottonfield shack near Money in the early hours of Aug. 31.

Officers testified at the murder trial that Milam and Bryant admitted taking the boy but said they released him unharmed when they found he was not the Negro who allegedly whistled at and molested Mrs. Bryant at Bryant's country store.

Advertiser

Police Guard

Chicago police working in three shifts guarded Mrs. Bradley's home and the house where Willie Reed, a state witness against Milam and Bryant, is living.

Reed may be a witness again if Milam and Bryant are tried on the kidnaping charge. P. 6-A

In the murder trial, Reed placed Milam with Till some three hours after Milam and Bryant said they released the lad.

The 18-year old farm hand was whisked to Chicago by friends immediately after the trial. He told a reporter today:

"It will be a long time before I go back to Mississippi. Some day I had planned to come here (Chicago) although I was happy, you might say, back home."

Placed In Jail

He worked on a plantation run by Milam's brother, Leslie Milam, where Till allegedly was beaten.

Police said they had merely received orders to stand guard at the two homes.

Milam and Bryant were placed in jail in Greenwood after the jury in nearby Sumner freed them on the murder charge. Their attorneys and prosecutors failed to agree on bond so the men remain in jail until tomorrow's hearing.

Leflore County Judge Charles A. Pollard said the hearing will begin at 10 a.m. Such hearings usually are brief. The judge will set bond when the hearing is over.

The alleged kidnaping took place in Leflore County. The body was found in neighboring Tallahatchie County so the murder trial was held in Sumner.

Bonds Posted In Till Case

Advertiser
Sat. 10-1-55

GREENWOOD, Miss., Sept. 30 (AP)—Two white men accused of kidnaping Emmett Louis Till, 14, walked free on bond today a week after they were acquitted of slaying the Chicago Negro.

County Judge Charles Pollard bound Roy Bryant, 24, and his half-brother, John W. Milam, 36, over to the Leflore County grand jury and set bond at $10,000 each.

Hearing Waived P. 1

The two waived preliminary hearing. The grand jury meets Nov. 7.

Montgomery
A Tallahatchie County grand jury last Friday found the two men innocent of slaying Till who was taken Aug. 28 from the sharecropper shack of his uncle, Mose Wright, on a plantation near Money, Miss., a small community near Greenwood.

A body taken from the Tallahatchie River Aug. 31 was identified as Till's by his mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley of Chicago, and Wright.

Advertiser
The defense, however, introduced witnesses at the murder trial who testified the body appeared to be that of an older person and showed signs of having been in the water from eight to 25 days.

Admitted Taking Boy

The Tallahatchie jury returned its acquittal verdict after 67 minutes deliberation. P. 10A

Two Leflore County officers testified Bryant and Milam admitted taking Till from Wright's house but said they released him afer Mrs. Bryan told them Till was not the Negro who allegedly wolf-whistled and made indecent proposals to her.

Meanwhile, Negroes in Detroit held a 24-hour mass meeting to protest the acquittal of Bryant and Milam.

In New York, A. Phillip Randolph, president of the AFL Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, called for an FBI investigation into the alleged disappearance of two Negroes who were to testify in the trial.

U. S. Intervention Asked

The two, Leroy Collins and Henry Lee Loggins, reportedly saw Till in the hands of his abductors.

Randolph said he had wired U. S. Atty. Gen. Herbert Brownell the two have been missing since Till's kidnaping last month.

The Sunflower County sheriff's office said it had received no report that Collins and Loggins were missing.

In Mound Bayou, Miss., all-Negro delta town, Dr. T. R. M. Howard, a civic leader, said he had been told "by our workers" that Collins and Loggins were seen in Leflore County after the recent Sumner murder trial.

Dr. Howard said they were reported to be in apparent good health, and he said he had no report of their disappearance.

The Mound Bayou physician said, however, he had not talked with the two men, or with anyone who had.

BRYANT AND MILAM FREED UNDER BOND

Commercial Appeal
Sat. 10-1-55

Till Kidnaping Case To Go Before Grand Jury On Nov. 7

By HELEN SHEARON
Special to The Commercial Appeal

GREENWOOD, Miss., Sept. 30.—Two men charged with kidnaping a 14-year-old vacationing Chicago Negro were freed on $10,000 bond each here Friday morning. P. 1

Free for the first time since their arrest Aug. 28 were Roy Bryant, 24-year-old Money, Miss., storekeeper, and J. W. Milam, 36, his brother-in-law from Glendora, Miss.

Plead Not Guilty

The 15-minute informal session was held by County Judge Charles Pollard in his office in the Leflore County Courthouse. Judge Pollard said defense attorney Sidney Carlton entered a not guilty plea for the men and waived a preliminary hearing prior to the session. The setting of bond was the only matter considered at the hearing. Memphis, Tenn.

The defendants appeared at the hearing with their attorney. The defense and prosecution agreed on the bond amount. Present at the hearing were Dist. Attorney Stanny Sanders and County Atty. John J. Fraiser Jr.

"Want To Go Home"

Sheriff George Smith said the bond for the two men was posted by B. C. Walker and F. B. Steinback, Leflore County plantation owners.

Possible indictments against the two men on charges of the Aug. 27 kidnaping of Emmett L. Till from his uncle's home near Money are scheduled for consideration by the Leflore County Grand Jury Nov. 7.

When a photographer asked Milam to say something to the defense attorney, Milam replied, "I've got nothing to say to him now—I just want to go home."

Bryant told reporters his immediate plans were to go back to Money "and rest and run the store."

Commercial Appeal
A Tallahatchie County jury last Friday found the two men innocent of slaying Till.

In New York, the Associated Press reported Friday, A. Phillip Randolph, president of the AFL Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, called for an FBI investigation into the alleged disappearance of two Negroes who were to testify in the Till trial. P. 17

The two, Leroy Collins and Henry Lee Loggins, reportedly saw Till in the hands of his white abductors. Randolph said he had wired Atty. Gen. Herbert Brownell that the two have been missing since Till's kidnaping last month.

The Sunflower County sheriff's office said it had received no report that Collins and Loggins were missing.

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Dr. Howard said they were reported to be in apparent good health, and he said he had no report of their disappearance.

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Bryant-Milam Kidnap Preliminary Hearing Today In Greenwood, Miss.

World Birmingham, Ala.
Sat. 9-30-33

Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam, who last Friday were acquitted on a murder charge of the now famous Emmett Till "wolf whistle" case, are expected to appear this morning (Friday) at 10 a. m. before LeFlore County Judge Charles Pollard in Greenwood, Miss., in a preliminary hearing on a kidnap charge.

Dist. Atty. Stanny Sanders of Indianola said earlier this week that no witnesses will be summoned to appear at the preliminary hearing. The LeFlore County Grand Jury is expected to consider bringing a possible kidnap indictments against the two half brothers, who allegedly snatched visiting 14-year-old Negro Chicago lad, Emmett Till, from the Money, Miss., home of his uncle for allegedly "wolf whistling" at Bryant's wife at its next session set for Nov. 7.

Undoubtedly the key issue to be taken up at today's hearing will be the possible setting up of bond against the two men until they are brought to trial on the kidnap charge.

Kidnapping Holds 2 Men

Courier
Sat. 10-1-33

(Special to the Courier)

SUMNER, Miss. — Though freed by an all-white jury on a brutal murder charge, J. W. Milam and his half-brother Roy Bryant of Money, Miss., still face a kidnapping charge in adjoining LeFlore County.

Penalty, if convicted, is ten years in the penitentiary.

Stanny Sanders, LeFlore county's District Attorney, said the grand jury will be asked to return kidnap indictments against the pair, when it convenes Nov. 7, at Greenwood, the county seat.

The two men, in the custody of Sheriff George Smith, who testified against the two men, were lodged in the Greenwood County jail. They seem destined to spend the week-end in jail.

As the Courier went to press, bond had not been posted.

Accused Mississippi Men

New York Observer
Sat. 10-1-33

Freed On Bond In Kidnaping Case

GREENWOOD, Miss., Sept. 30 (AP) —Two white men accused of kidnaping Emmett Louis Till, 14, walked free on bond today a week after they were acquitted of slaying the Chicago Negro.

County Judge Charles Pollard bound Roy Bryant, 24, and his half-brother, John W. Milam, 36, over to the Leflore County grand jury and set bond at $10,000 each.

The two waived preliminary hearing. The grand jury meets Nov.

Raleigh N.C.

Found Innocent.

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A body taken from the Tallahatchie River Aug. 31 was identified as Till's by his mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley of Chicago, and Wright.

The defense, however, introduced witnesses at the murder trial who testified the body appeared to be that of an older person and showed signs of having been in the water from eight to 25 days.

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Dr. Howard said they were reported to be in apparent good health, and he said he had no report of their disappearance.

The Mound Bayou physician said, however, he had not talked with the two men, or with anyone who had.

An all-white jury at nearby Sumner in Tallahatchie County took only an hour and seven minutes to find the two defendants not guilty of slaying the boy for allegedly insulting Bryant's wife.

A LeFlore grand jury meeting Nov. 7 will consider kidnaping indictments against Bryant and Milam. The two men claimed they released the boy unharmed when they discovered he was not the one "that did the talking" at the tiny store in Money, a small LeFlore County community where Mrs. Bryant worked.

Wolf-Whistle Bail Hearing Slated Today

Constitution
Fri. 9-30-33
P 3

GREENWOOD, Miss., Sept. 29 (UP) — Two white half-brothers charged with kidnaping Emmett Till, the "wolf whistle" murder victim, face a county judge Friday to seek release from jail on bond.

Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam, acquitted last Friday on charges they killed the 14-year-old Chicago Negro, are being held in LeFlore County jail here. Attempts to gain bail for them have been unsuccessful so far.

Atlanta Ga.

They will appear at 11 a.m. (EST) before County Judge Charles Pollard, who said he would hear "some evidence" on the kidnaping charge although the hearing primarily would be to determine the amount of bond.

MISSISSIPPI PAIR TO ASK BAIL BE SET

Times

GREENWOOD, Miss., Sept. 29 (AP)—Two men acused of kidnapping a 14-year old Chicago Negro boy seek freedom on bonds tomorrow amid rumors that the boy, Emmett Louis Till, is alive.

The rumors were not confirmed Mrs. Mamie Bradley, the lad's mother, today called them "a cruel hoax."

Around-the-clock police protection was provided in Chicago for two witnesses in last week's murder trial of Roy Bryant, 24 years old, and his half-brother, John W. Milam, 36. They were found innocent of the murder of the vacationing Chicago boy. They still face a kidnapping charge.

New York

Contradictory identification of a body found in the Tallahatchie River heavily influenced the jury in freeing the men, and set off widespread speculation about Till's whereabouts if he were alive. Mrs. Bradley said in Detroit:

"I am willing to have my boy's body exhumed from the vault for a thorough examination if that would dispel these wild rumors."

Sheriff H. C. Strider said in near-by Charleston he had heard the rumors, and added:

"I definitely believe he's somewhere, but I don't know where."

A. Philip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, demanded a Federal investigation yesterday of two missing witnesses in the murder of young Till.

He telegraphed Attorney General Herbert Brownell Jr. urging the Federal Bureau of Investigation to find Leroy Collins and Henry Lee Loggins, Mississippi Negroes, who were reported to have seen the boy in the hands of his white abductors. Mr. Randolph said they were referred to "constantly" during the recent murder trial.



RELEASED ON BOND—Roy Bryant, 24, (right), and his half-brother J. W. Milam, 36, (second from right), walk down steps of Leflore County Courthouse at Greenwood, Miss., after being freed on a bond of $10,000 each on a charge of kidnaping Emmett Till, 14-year-old Chicago Negro boy. They were found innocent of murdering Till in a trial which drew international attention last week. (AP Wirephoto.)

Two Go on Trial in Kidnap Death

Inquirer

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 19 (AP).—Two white men went on trial today for the murder of a teenage Negro boy from Chicago. At the end of the court day, 10 prospective jurors had been tentatively seated. Inq. 9-20-55

The defendants—Roy Bryant, 24, and his half-brother, J. W. Milam, 36, went on trial with their 2-year-old boys on their laps. Flanking each defendant a few feet from the judge's bench in the steamy Mississippi courtroom was a slightly older son. P. 8

WAILS AND LAUGHTER

The little boys' thin wails or alternately their childish laughter cut across the routine hum of court proceedings in the most sensational murder trial the Mississippi Delta has seen in years.

The State questioned prospective jurors first and after running through about half the panel of 106 prospects announced that it was satisfied with the 12 men then seated. In turn the defense excused two of those 12 and court was adjourned until tomorrow morning.

Philadelphia, Pa.

KILLED ON VACATION

Bryant and Milam were accused of the kidnap slaying of 14-year-old Emmett (Bo-Bo) Till, a South Side Chicago boy. He was vacationing in Mississippi last month and was slain after he allegedly made offensive remarks and wolf-whistled at Bryant's attractive 21-year-old wife, Carolyn.

Both defendants have pleaded innocent.

Both Mrs. Bryant and 27-year-old Juanita Milam were in court with their husbands and the youngsters.

12 CHALLENGES MADE

The State accepted a panel of 12 jurors at 4:30 P. M. (CST) after a day of questioning and eliminating unsatisfactory members of the panel. The State made use of 11 of 12 pre-emptory challenges which it was allowed—a challenge with which it may eliminate a juror without giving a reason. Numerous other prospects were excused for reasons of health or because they had formed an opinion in the case.

Three of the prospective jurors were excused for contributing to the Milam-Bryant defense fund, which was reported to have reached $6000 in solicitations throughout the Delta plantation region.

SEARCHED FOR ARMS

Another was dismissed because he said he had come to a fixed opinion about the case. He was warned not to state what his opinion was.

Eight Negro reporters, most of them representing Northern newspapers, were segregated at a separate table as the trial got under way in a tense and crowded courtroom in this small farming town.

"We haven't mixed so far down here and we don't intend to," said husky Sheriff H. C. Strider, who searched the crowd for arms.

BOTH CAPITAL CRIMES

The prosecution did not question the prospects whether they believed in capital punishment, leading to speculation that the death penalty would not be sought for either the kidnaping or murder, both capital offenses in Mississippi.

But District Attorney Gerald Chatham said it was up to the jury to fix a punishment in the event it reached a guilty verdict. Such a verdict without a recommendation of life imprisonment would make the death sentence mandatory.

Bonds Posted In Till Case

Philadelphia Inquirer Montgomery Ala.

GREENWOOD, Miss., Sept. 30 (AP)—Two white men accused of kidnaping Emmett Louis Till, 14, walked free on bond today a week after they were acquitted of slaying the Chicago Negro.

County Judge Charles Pollard bound Roy Bryant, 24, and his half-brother, John W. Milam, 36, over to the Leflore County grand jury and set bond at $10,000 each.

Hearing Waived

The two waived preliminary hearing. The grand jury meets Nov. Nov. 10-1-55

A Tallahatchie County grand jury last Friday found the two men innocent of slaying Till who was taken Aug. 28 from the sharecropper shack of his uncle, Mose Wright, on a plantation near Money, Miss., a small community near Greenwood.

A body taken from the Tallahatchie River Aug. 31 was identified as Till's by his mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley of Chicago, and Wright. Advertiser

The defense, however, introduced witnesses at the murder trial who testified the body appeared to be that of an older person and showed signs of having been in the water from eight to 25 days. P. 8 A

Admitted Taking Boy

The Tallahatchie jury returned its acquittal verdict after 67 minutes deliberation.

Two Leflore County officers testified Bryant and Milam admitted taking Till from Wright's house but said they released him afer Mrs. Bryan told them Till was not the Negro who allegedly wolf-whistled and made indecent proposals to her.

Meanwhile, Negroes in Detroit held a 24-hour mass meeting to protest the acquittal of Bryant and Milam.

In New York, A. Phillip Randolph, president of the AFL Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, called for an FBI investigation into the alleged disappearance of two Negroes who were to testify in the trial.

U. S. Intervention Asked

The two, Leroy Collins and Henry Lee Loggins, reportedly saw Till in the hands of his abductors.

Randolph said he had wired U. S. Atty. Gen. Herbert Brownell the two have been missing since Till's kidnaping last month.

The Sunflower County sheriff's office said it had received no report that Collins and Loggins were missing.

In Mound Bayou, Miss., all-Negro delta town, Dr. T. R. M. Howard, a civic leader, said he had been told "by our workers" that Collins and Loggins were seen in Leflore County after the recent Sumner murder trial.

Dr. Howard said they were reported to be in apparent good health, and he said he had no report of their disappearance.

The Mound Bayou physician said, however, he had not talked with the two men, or with anyone who had.

GRAND JURY TO SCAN TILL KIDNAP CHARGE

Commercial Appeal Memphis, Tenn.

Leflore County Unit Plans Session Monday

INDICTMENTS WEIGHED

By The United Press Sun. 11-6-55

GREENWOOD, Miss., Nov. 5.—The final criminal phase of the Emmett Till case begins Monday when a grand jury meets to consider kidnap indictments against two white men already acquitted of a charge of slaying the Negro boy. P. 7

State prosecutors will ask the Leflore County Grand Jury to order Roy Bryant, 29, and his half-brother, J. W. Milam, 36, to stand trial for abducting Till, 14, of Chicago, last Aug. 28 for allegedly directing a "wolf whistle" at Bryant's wife.

The grand jury is expected to act on the indictments Monday or Tuesday. If they are handed down, District Attorney Stannie Sanders said the men probably will stand trial later this month, possibly Nov. 28. There also is a possibility defense counsel will ask for a delay until a later court term.

Body Found In River

Worldwide attention was focused on Mississippi when a body was pulled from the Tallahatchie River three days after Till was forced from the home of an uncle he was visiting in the Money community.

The corpse was identified by the uncle, Moses Wright, and Till's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley of Chicago, as that of the missing boy. It had been weighted with a piece of cotton gin machinery, beaten and shot once through the head.

Mr. Milam and Mr. Bryant, who with his wife operates a small general store in Money, were accused of the youth's slaying in addition to being charged with kidnaping.

In a sensational trial at Sumner in adjoining Tallahatchie County, an all-white male jury took little more than one hour Sept. 23 to find the men innocent of Till's death. Several jury members said the state failed to prove the body was Till's.

Penalties Are Listed

Mr. Sanders said the grand jury would be advised of two state kidnap statutes, one of which provides that a trial jury may set the death penalty or life imprisonment. The other fixes maximum punishment at 10 years in prison.

Mr. Bryant and Mr. Milam said they let Till go unharmed after discovering he was "not the one" who insulted Mrs. Bryant when the boy went into the store to purchase bubble gum. Both were identified as the abductors by Till's uncle, who is expected to be the prosecution's star witness.

The two white men were released from Leflore County Jail here Sept. 30 under $10,000 bond each. Mr. Milam has since been busy hiring out mechanical cotton pickers, in great demand during the harvest season in the rich Mississippi Delta.

Mr. Bryant re-opened his small store, which had been locked following his arrest on kidnaping charges. Last Oct. 19, he advertised in a local newspaper that his place was for sale.

New Chapter Opens Monday For Till Case

Advertiser Sun. 11-6-55

GREENWOOD, Miss., Nov. 6 (AP)—A grand jury meets Monday under the eyes of the nation as another chapter begins in the famous Till case. P. 5 A

The jurors will decide whether two white men will stand trial on a charge of kidnaping Emmet Louis Till, 14-year-old Chicago Negro boy who disappeared while vacationing in Mississippi. Inquirer Mon. 11-7-55

In Mississippi's most sensational trial six weeks ago at nearby Sumner, a jury took 67 minutes to find the two men innocent of murdering the boy.

Roy Bryant, 24, and his 36-year-old half brother, J. W. Milam, have been free on $10,000 bond each since the trial, awaiting action of the Leflore County grand jury on the kidnap charge.

Flood Of Criticism

The acquital of Bryant and Milam brought a flood of criticism upon Mississippi. Rallies protesting the verdict drew huge crowds in northern cities.

The National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People labeled Till's death a lynching and called the boy a martyr.

Mississippi's Citizens' Councils, groups dedicated to keeping segregation, and newspapers answered in kind.

They labeled the NAACP a Communist-front group. Some urged U. S. Atty. Gen. Herbert Brownell to place the group on the list of subversive organizations.

After NAACP Meet

The grand jury session begins one day after the Mississippi branch of the NAACP ends its annual convention in Jackson. The convention included a blast at Mississippi's handling of the Till case.

The acquital of Bryant and Milam brought "reaction and revulsion of mountainous proportion," declared Clarence Mitchell, head of the NAACP's Washington bureau.

The grand jury meets in a county where Negroes outnumber whites, where race relations are taut and Negro voting virtually has disappeared.

Murder trial sequel—

News

Grand Jury to hear Till kidnap evidence

Pat

Dec. 11-6-55

GREENWOOD, Miss., Nov. 5—(AP)—A Grand Jury will meet Monday under the eyes of the nation as another chapter begins in the Till case. Birmingham, Ala.

The jurors will decide whether two white men will stand trial on a charge of kidnaping Emmett Louis Till, 14-year-old Negro boy who disappeared while vacationing in Mississippi.

In the trial six weeks ago at nearby Sumner, a jury took 67 minutes to find the two men innocent of murdering the boy.

Roy Bryant, 24, and his 36-year-old half brother, J. W. Milam, have been free on $10,000 bond each since the trial, awaiting action of the LeFlore County Grand Jury on the kidnap charge.

Pro and con

THE ACQUITTAL of Bryant and Milam brought criticism upon Mississippi by Negro rallies protesting the verdict in Northern cities.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People labeled Till's death a lynching and called the boy a martyr.

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They labeled the NAACP a Communist - front group. Some urged Atty. Gen. Herbert Brownell to place the group on the list of subversive organizations.

Two statutes

THE GRAND JURY session will begin one day after the Mississippi branch of the NAACP ends its annual convention in Jackson. The convention included a blast at Mississippi's handling of the Till case.

The LeFlore County Grand Jury could indict the two white men under one or two Mississippi kidnap statutes. One provides a death penalty. The other carries a maximum of 10 years in prison.

Dist. Atty. Stanny Sanders said the Grand Jury probably would consider the case within the first three days of next week. The exact day will be determined by the court docket and presence of witnesses.

Till Kidnap Trial Due This Week In Mississippi

Journal and Constitution Atlanta, Ga.

GREENWOOD, Miss., Nov. 5 (AP). The final criminal phase of the Emmett Till case, one of the most publicized race incidents of the decade, will begin Monday when a grand jury meets to consider kidnap indictments against two white men already acquitted of the Negro boy's slaying.

State prosecutors will ask the Leflore County grand jury to order Roy Bryant, 29, and his half-brother, J. W. Milam, 36, to stand trial for abducting Till, 14, of Chicago, last Aug. 28 for allegedly directing a "wolf whistle" at Bryant's pretty wife.

Dec. 11-6-55

THE GRAND JURY is expected to act on the indictments Monday or Tuesday. If they are handed down, District Attorney Stannie Sanders said, the men probably will stand trial later this month, possibly Nov. 28. There also is a possibility defense counsel will ask for a delay until a later court term.

P-2-C

A body pulled from the Tallahatchie river three days after Till was forced from the home of an uncle he was visiting in the nearby Money community was identified by the uncle, Moses Wright, and Till's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley of Chicago, as that of the missing boy.

In a sensational trial at Sumner in adjoining Tallahatchie County, an all-white male jury took little more than one hour Sept. 23 to find the men innocent of Till's death. Several jurors said the state failed to prove the body was Till's.

• • •

THE VERDICT was sharply attacked by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, other civil rights organizations and several congressmen.

Rep. Charles Diggs Jr. (D-Mich), who attended the trial, said he had "never witnessed such sheer perjury and fantastic twisting of the facts," although the presiding judge and the prosecution were generally praised for their handling of the case.

Protest demonstrations were held throughout the nation against the acquittal and alleged mistreatment of Negroes in Mississippi and urging enactment of anti-lynching laws.

One NAACP chapter asked the federal government to send troops into Mississippi to supervise elections in which Negroes would be assured voting rights.

KIDNAPPING CASE REVIVED IN SOUTH

Times

Grand Jury of a Different Mississippi County Will Get Case of Slain Negro Boy

Dec. 11-30-55

By JOHN N. POPHAM

Special to The New York Times.

GREENWOOD, Miss., Oct. 29—A grand jury will convene in this Leflore County seat Nov. 7 to study evidence in the alleged kidnap-murder of Emmett Louis Till, 14-year-old Chicago Negro.

Basically, the case concerns the accusation that young Till was taken from his granduncle's cabin and slain by two white men, Roy Bryant and his half-brother, J. W. Milam. The youth allegedly had "wolf-whistled" at and made an indecent proposal to Bryant's wife, Carolyn, when they were alone in the Bryant country store.

P-1-C

New York

Bryant and Milam were brought to trial in adjoining Tallahatchie County on a murder charge. On Sept. 23 the all-white jury, after deliberating one hour and five minutes, acquitted them.

Wide Public Controversy

At this stage the public controversy as it has developed in Mississippi appears to have engendered far more confusion than clarity. In particular, the touchy race relations phase has overshadowed all other considerations and there is widespread feeling that "attitudes" concerning the case have taken on a definite trend in the last month.

The cabin of the youth's granduncle was in this county. The new grand jury action will deal specifically with the kidnapping phase of the case.

The youth's body was found in the Tallahatchie River on Aug. 31, three days after he had been taken from the home of his granduncle, Moses Wright, and seven days after the alleged incident in the country store of the Bryants at Money, a crossroads community about ten miles from Greenwood.

The recovery of the body was on the Tallahatchie County side of the river and the grand jury of that county took jurisdiction. It voted murder and kidnapping counts against Bryant and Milam.

There was at first wide evidence of outraged indignation over the crime. Mississippi officials were outspoken in demanding swift retributive justice. A special prosecutor was assigned to handle the case.

The sharpness of this indignation was blunted in some quarters, however, when "outside" organizations, including spokesmen for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, termed the crime a "lynching" and when a number of letters using vile words were received by officials and others in the Tallahatchie area.

Citizens Council Formed

For some time the N. A. A. C. P., largely because of its role in successfully prosecuting the lawsuits that resulted in the Supreme Court's decision of May 17, 1954, outlawing racial segregation in the public schools, has been the target of wide attack by speakers in this state.

The agitation led to the formation of what is called the Citizens Council. Its aim is to preserve separation of the races by combatting what its supporters term the alliance of the N. A. A. C. P. and the Federal Government. It says it has 60,000 members in this state.

There was no great surprise when the Tallahatchie County jury, in its verdict of Sept. 23, acquitted Bryant and Milam on the murder charge.

The trial jurors said later that they had reasonable doubt of the identification of the body as that of Till. They cited that a physician and an embalmer had testified that the body was too badly decomposed to be one that had been in the river only three days. Further, the trial testimony underscored emphatically the inadequate police work of the local officers.

The weight of informed opinion locally, however, was that the "climate" in Tallahatchie County was adverse to any jury's voting a conviction that would entail death in the gas chamber or life imprisonment for the two white men.

Immediately after the jury had returned its verdict on the murder charge Judge Swango canceled the kidnapping count in the indictment on the ground that the testimony established that the proper jurisdiction was in neighboring Leflore County. The defendants were brought here and were released in $10,000 bond each on a kidnapping affidavit pending action by the grand jury.

At that stage in the case it was the preponderant view that a kidnapping indictment would be returned in Leflore County. Indignation over the crime had been fairly strong from the beginning.

Since then, however, the public controversy over the many side issues has raged.

In this new context the earlier indignation over the crime has become counterbalanced by widespread anger over such developments as the recent proposal that Mississippi's Congressional delegation be denied its seats until Negroes "have the right to vote."

Perhaps the most explosive of the developments was the disclosure two weeks ago by The Jackson Daily News that Till's father, serving in the Army in Italy in World War II, was hanged for the murder of one woman and the rape of two others.

Newspapers in the area have declared editorially that the information on Till's father has no relevancy to the crime in Mississippi, but they also argue that a national weekly magazine's reference to Till's father as a soldier killed in battle was an irrelevant appeal to emotions that underscored certain "distortions" in the publicizing of the case in general.

Stanny Sanders of Indianola, District Attorney for the state's Fourth Judicial Circuit, which includes Leflore County, and John J. Fraiser Jr., Leflore County prosecutor, will jointly handle the grand jury study of the kidnapping charge and any trial if there is an indictment. Under Mississippi law they are forbidden to advise the grand jury on what its findings should be, but are the legal advisers to grand jury members.

Mr. Sanders, 36 years old, is regarded as one of the state's most able criminal prosecutors. He and Mr. Fraiser, 30 years old, have said that if there is an indictment "we sure will prosecute the case."

Miss. grand jury deliberates kidnaping charge in Till case

Afro-American Baltimore, Md.
April 12-55

By JAMES L. HICKS

GREENWOOD, Miss. — Ailing Willie Reed and aging Moses Wright returned to terror-stricken Mississippi, Monday, to again point accusing fingers at Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam, this time as the kidnapers of Emmett Till.

The two men, who fled this state in fear after accusing Milam and Bryant of murdering the Chicago youth, arrived in Jackson by train Sunday night and came to Greenwood with Mrs. Ruby Hurley, NAACP field secretary, to give testimony to the grand jury.

In addition to the testimony given by Reed and Wright, Leflore County Prosecutor Stannie Sanders advised the grand jury that Mississippi had two kidnaping laws under which a kidnaping indictment can be presented.

UNDER THE FIRST law, the jury may set a death penalty or give life imprisonment. Under the second law, the jury can fix a maximum punishment of 10 years in prison.

As the grand jury met for the indictment there was not as much tension in Greenwood as there had been at the end of the murder trail in Sumner, but it was gradually building up.

Ninety-five miles away at Jackson, the NAACP State Conference held a three-day meeting beginning Friday and speaker after speaker, including Thurgood Marshall, lambasted the mockery of the murder trial.

Answering the NAACP barrage was the White Citizens Council, whose state administrator, J. W. Simmons, issued a press statement Sunday in which he claimed that the council now has 65,000 members and that it includes the most respected citizens.

Afro-American nnnT shr cmfw cmfw mb

* * *

SAID SIMMONS: "If you take the Farm Bureau, Rotary, Kiwanis and Lions clubs out of the Citizens Council, there would not be much left." The statement followed with the usual demand for white supremacy and the rededication of the white councils to it

Elsewhere on the Mississippi front, rumors were flying thick and fast. The name of "Two Tight" Collins was injected into the news again by none other than J. W. Milam, one of the defendants in the murder trial.

Milam charged in a statement to a white daily newspaper that a Chicago newspaper had failed to return Too Tight to Mississippi and said he now believes that Too Tight has met with foul play.

April 12-55

THE NEWSPAPER has stated that it sent Collins back to Mississippi on Oct. 10 after he declared that he was not on the truck the mornign Till was murdered.

But despite Milam's statement that Too Tight is missing, this reporter, Saturday, talked with a woman who stated that she saw Milam andn Too Tight together a week ago at a cotton gin in Webb (Miss.), not far from the Milam farm.

The name of Henry Lee Logan, the other colored man believed to have been on the truck with Emmett Till the day of his death, also came back to haunt reporters who covered the murder trial.

Baltimore Md.

LOGAN, WHO HAS refused to tell what he knows about the case, was scheduled to have been spirited out of the state Saturday night into Missouri where he was to "tell all" to a weekly newspaper.

The paper, through an intermediary, provided money for the trip and Logan is reported to have gone to the point of going to the home of his mother to say goodbye.

But at the home his mother broke down, made him change his mind, and he is reported now to be refusing to talk with anyone about the case. Both Logan and his wife work for J. W. Milam.

This was the general picture as the indictment was sought:

* * *

DR. T. R. M. HOWARD has received a threateninng letter with the picture of himstlf enclosed. On the picture the writer of the letter smeared the doctor's head with a red substance resembling blood and also painted a bloody smear over his eyes and heart.

The letter, mailed from Cleveland (Miss.), six miles from the doctor's home, said, "You'll get what Till got if you don't shut up." Dr. Howard was undaunted, but his pretty wife is beginning to show effects of the strain.

In the cotton lands, white business men are telling colored ton that next year they had betfarmers as they markit their cotter look to Dr. Howard and the NAACP to finance their crops because the white people will not do it for them.

* * *

SOME INDICATION of the feeling on both sides can be gained from an incident which happened at Drew about 10 miles from Mound Bayou.

Colored and white persons were in line to get their cotton ginned whtn a white man drove his truck ahead of a colored man who was next in line.

The two men got into a fight; the white man seized a rifle, the colored man took it away from him but while they wrestled over it, the white man pulled the trigger three times in an effort to shoot the colored man.

When the colored man took the rifle, the whites stopped the fight. The colored man left but returned and got his cotton ginned without further incident.

These incidents, in addition to the murder of a 12-year-old youth about 100 miles north of here, just about has everyone back on edge as the indictment is expected to be handed up.

GRAND JURY DELAYS TILL KIDNAP REVIEW

Afro-American Nov. 19

Study Of Abduction Charge May Begin Today

Memphis, Tenn. 24
WITNESSES ON HAND
Tues 11-8-55

By SAM JOHNSON
Associated Press Staff Writer

GREENWOOD, Miss., Nov. 7. —The Leflore County Grand Jury, working through a heavy doket, delayed until Tuesday consideration of kidnap harges against two white men in the Emmett Till ase.

Witnesses sheduled to testify Monday were told to return Tuesday morning.

Dist. Atty. Stanny Sanders said earlier he had hoped to finish testimony Monday in the kidnap harges whih grew out of the disappearane of Emmet Louis Till, 14-year-old Chiago boy.

May Be Known Wednesday

A 20-man, all-white Grand Jury began work Monday morning with the Till ase its hottest business.

The jury's ation on the kidnap harges won't be known until the Jury makes its report, probably Wednesday, Mr. Sanders said.

The jury will deide whether half brothers Roy Bryant and John W. Milam will stand trial on a harge of kidnaping the boy who disappeared while vaationing in Mississippi.

Mose Wright, 64-year-old shareropper, who fled to Chiago for safety, waited in the Leflore County sheriff's offie to testiy. Till was taken from Wright's arm shak in nearby Money last Aug. 28.

With Wright was Willie Reed, 18-year-old farm hand, who also left for Chiago after the trial in nearby Summer six weeks ago when a jury found Bryant and Milam innoent of murdering Till.

Wright, Till's unle, and Reed arrived in Greenwood Sunday night from Chiago.

They said they have no fear of being harmed in Mississippi but seemed nervous. Wright said he will be happy when he has returned to Chicago.

Two Men Out On Bond

Milam and Bryant have been free on $10,000 bond each.

The Grand Jury could indict the men under one of two Miss...ppi kidnaping statutes. One carries a maximum of death. The other carries a maximum of 10 years.

Members of the Grand Jury include June Broadway, foreman, Charles W. King, John H. Barrett and Mike J. Ballas, all of Greenwood; George A. Richardson, Dewey B. Watson and Donald M. Miller of District Five; G. H. Banks, Dexter Deaton, Frank W. Pruitt and W. G. Somerville of Minter City; William B. Colvin, Frank Thatch and David E. Nichols Jr. of Money; R. V. Howard, S. B. Taylor, J. V. Guess, Hugh Carpenter and U. S. Upchurch of Itta Bena; and Roy L. Kelly Jr. of Schlater.

Jury To Consider Kidnap Case On Pair Freed In Murder Trial

Daily World
Wed. 11-9-55

GREENWOOD, Miss. — (INS) — Mose Wright, star witness in the murder trial of two white men accused of slaying a 14-year-old Chicago Negro boy, appeared before the Le Flore County Grand Jury late Tuesday. P. 1

The grand jury is considering kidnipping charges against J. W Milam, 36, and his half brother, Roy Bryant, 24. The two were acquitted of murder in the death of Emmett Louis Till after a trial at Summer, Miss., and have been free on bond on kidnapping charges.

Wright testified during the trial that the two men took the boy away from his home in the middle of the night three days later, a body identified by Mrs. Mamie Bradley, of Chicago, as that of her son, Emmett Till, was found flaoting in a river. The victim had been shot, and the body weighted down with a heavy piece of cotton gin machinery.

Neither of the defendants testified during the murder trial. But the sheriff testified one of them admitted taking the boy from Wright's home, but insisted he was released later, unharmed.

Bryant's pretty young wife, Carolyn, testified at the trial that "A Negro Man" made improper advances to her. But she never identified her assailant.

The ages Wright left Mississippi after the murder trial, but returned with another Negro witness, Willie Reed, to testify before the grand jury.

Daily World

The grand jury opened its session Monday, but Wright has not called until late Tuesday, near the end of the jury's second day's meeting.

PAIR EXPECTED TO RETURN HOME

Times Herald
Till Kidnap Indictment to Be Considered

P. 24

GREENWOOD, Miss., Nov. 6 (AP)—Two Negro witnesses who left Mississippi after the Till murder trial may return this week when a grand jury takes up the kidnaping phase of the case.

"Our information is that they will be here," District Attorney Stanny Sanders said Sunday.

The Leflore county grand jury session, which begins Monday, will decide whether to indict two white men for kidnaping Emmet Louis Till, a 14-year-old Chicago Negro boy. He disappeared while vacationing in Mississippi.

The two Negro witnesses, Mose Wright and Willie Reed, testified for the prosecution in the murder trial six weeks ago. After a jury found the two white men innocent, the Negroes left Mississippi for Chicago.

Chicago Sun 11-7-55

Free on Bond

Since the trial, Roy Bryant, 24, and his 36-year-old half brother, John W. Milam, have been free on $10,000 bond each for the kidnaping charges.

Wright, 63-year-old uncle of Till, was the state's chief witness in the murder trial. The sharecropper testified two white men pulled the boy from his bed in Wright's shack at nearby Money on Aug. 28.

Three days later, a body was pulled from the Tallahatchie river in adjoining Tallahatchie county. At first, it was identified as Till's, and Mrs. Mamie Bradley, mother of Till, agreed the body was his.

But defense witnesses contended the body was too decomposed to have been in the river only three days. The foreman said the jury, in reaching the acquittal decision, did not believe the body was Till's.

According to police testimony Bryant and Milam admitted taking the boy but said they released him because he was not the Negro who allegedly annoyed Mrs. Bryant.

Tells of Incident

In testimony Judge Curtis Swango would not allow the jury to hear, Mrs. Bryant said a Negro had put his hands on her waist, asked her for a date and said, "I've been with white women before."

Reed, an 18-year-old farm hand, was an unexpected witness at the first trial. He testified he saw

bald man who looked like Milam a few hours after the abduction.

According to Reed, the bald man was with the boy on a plantation run by Milam's brother, Leslie Milam.

After the acquittal of Bryant and Milam, protest rallies, many accompanied by fund raising, drew huge crowds in Northern cities. Speakers from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People called Till a martyr, terming his death a lynching.

In turn, Mississippi's prosegregation Citizens Councils labeled the NAACP a Communist-front group.

The Leflore county grand jury can indict Bryant and Milam under one or two Mississippi kidnap laws, one providing a death penalty, the other a maximum 10-year prison sentence.

The jurors come from a county where Negroes outnumber whites and where there is little Negro voting.

New Chapter Opens Monday For Till Case

Advertiser
Sun. 11-6-55

GREENWOOD, Miss., Nov. 6 (AP) —A grand jury meets Monday under the eyes of the nation as another chapter begins in the famous Till case.

P. 2a

The jurors will decide whether two white men will stand trial on a charge of kidnaping Emmet Louis Till, 14-year-old Chicago Negro boy who disappeared while vacationing in Mississippi.

In Mississippi's most sensational trial six weeks ago at nearby Sumner, a jury took 67 minutes to find the two men innocent of murdering the boy.

Montgomery

Roy Bryant, 24, and his 36-year-old half brother, J. W. Milam, have been free on $10,000 bond each since the trial, awaiting action of the Leflore County grand jury on the kidnap charge.

Flood Of Criticism

The acquital of Bryant and Milam brought a flood of criticism upon Mississippi. Rallies protesting the verdict drew huge crowds in northern cities.

The National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People labeled Till's death a lynching and called the boy a martyr.

Mississippi's Citizens' Councils, groups dedicated to keeping segregation, and newspapers answered in kind.

They labeled the NAACP a Communist-front group. Some urged U. S. Atty. Gen. Herbert Brownell to place the group on the list of subversive organizations.

After NAACP Meet

The grand jury session begins one day after the Mississippi branch of the NAACP ends its annual convention in Jackson. The convention included a blast at Mississippi's handling of the Till case.

The acquital of Bryant and Milam brought "reaction and revulsion of mountainous proportion," declared Clarence Mitchell, head of the NAACP's Washington bureau.

The grand jury meets in a county where Negroes outnumber whites, where race relations are taut and Negro voting virtually has disappeared.

TWO TILL WITNESSES EXPECTED TO TESTIFY

Appeal
Mon. 11-7-55

Negroes May Return From Chicago This Week

GREENWOOD, Miss., Nov. 5 — (AP) — Two Negro witnesses who left Mississippi after the Emmett Till murder trial may return this week when a Grand Jury takes up the kidnaping phase of the case.

P. 23

"Our information is that they will be here," Dist. Atty. Stanny Sanders said Sunday.

The Leflore County Grand Jury session, which begins Monday, decides whether to indict two white men on charges of kidnapping Till, a 14-year-old Chicago Negro boy. He disappeared while vacationing in Mississippi.

Memphis

The two Negro witnesses, Mose Wright and Willie Reed, testified for the prosecution in the murder trial six weeks ago. After a jury found the two white men innocent, the Negroes left Mississippi for Chicago.

Since the trial, Roy Bryant, 24, and his 36-year-old half brother, John W. Milam, have been free on $10,000 bond each on the kidnaping charges.

Wright, 63-year-old uncle of Till, was the state's chief witness in the murder trial.

TILL CASE HOLDS SPOTLIGHT AGAIN

News & Observer

Grand Jury Meets In Mississippi Monday to Consider Kidnaping Charge

Sun. 11-6-55

GREENWOOD, Miss., Nov. 5 (AP) —A grand jury meets Monday under the eyes of the nation as another chapter begins in the famous Till case.

P. 1

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In Mississippi's most sensational trial six weeks ago at nearby Sumner, a jury took 67 minutes to find the two men innocent of murdering the boy.

Raleigh, N. C.

Free on Bond.

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Outnumber Whites.

The grand jury session begins one day after the Mississippi branch of the NAACP ends its annual convention in Jackson. The convention included a blast at Mississippi's handling of the Till case.

The acquittal of Bryant and Milam brought "reaction and revulsion of mountainous proportion," declared Clarence Mitchell, head of the NAACP's Washington bureau.

The grand jury meets in a county where Negroes outnumber whites, where race relations are taut and Negro voting virtually has disappeared.

The Leflore County grand jury could indict the two white men under one or two Mississippi kidnap statutes. One provides a death penalty. The other carries a maximum of 10 years in prison.

Dist. Atty. Stanny Sanders said the grand jury probably would consider the case within the first three days of next week. The exact day will be determined by the court docket and presence of witnesses.

National attention will center again on Mose Wright, 64-year-old sharecropper and the state's chief witness.

Two white men roused the Negro boy from his bed in Wright's farm shack nearby Money about 2:30 a.m. Aug. 28. Wright was the only witness to the abduction who testified in the murder trial.

A body identified as Till's was pulled from the muddy Tallahatchie River in adjoining Tallahatchie County three days later. A weight was tied around the body's neck with barbed wire.

8798

Till's Mother Attends Miss. Trial

Weekly

Sumner, Miss. (Special) — Tense dramatic moments continued to develop in this tiny northern Mississippi town during the third day of the sensational "wolf whistle" trial as prosecuting attorneys hinted early Wednesday morning before the court convened that possibly four unidentified witnesses would be called to strengthen their charge that 14-year-old Emmett L. Till was allegedly bludgeoned to death by two half-brothers in nearby Money, Miss.

Dat. 9-24-55

District Attorney Gerald Chatham and his specially-appointed assistant former FBI agent Robert B. Smith III believed that the witnesses would be able to crack the time element in the case as to the movements of the defendants from the time they abducted Till from his uncle's home early Sunday morning (Aug. 28) until late that afternoon when the men were arrested. They also indicated that a photo taken of Till after his removal from the Tallahatchie river some three days after the brutal slaying would be used.

New Orleans

Center of attraction in the widely-publicized trial are defendants Roy Bryant, 24, and his half-brother, J. W. Milam, 34.

La.

Before the Tuesday morning session got underway, the eyes of everyone in the courtroom fell upon Mrs. Mamie Bradley of Chicago, mother of the slain youth, when she dramatically entered the jammed courthouse accompanied by Cong. Charles Diggs of Michigan, four bodyguards and several unidentified businessmen and attorneys.

The arrival of the fashionably-attired Mrs. Bradley stemmed earlier speculations that she would not appear at the trial to verify that the mutilated and badly decomposed body taken from the river was that of her only child. She told reporters that there was no doubt in her mind that the body was "definitely her son."

Approximately 20 minutes after Mrs. Bradley, who was immaculately dressed in a dark gray suit with white collar and a black bow, sat at a table among a battery of Negro newsmen, Judge Curtis Swango rapped for order. During that span of time, she was interviewed, photographed and served with a subpena by Sheriff H. C. Strider.

Another key witness for the State is Mose Wright, 64-year-old great-granduncle of the victim. It was from Wright's home that Till was spirited away. The elderly sharecrop farmer told newsmen last week that after he had gathered his crops he plans to leave the state.

The opening days of the trial was confined to the selection of a 12-man jury which was finally accepted around 11 a. m. Tuesday. The court recessed minutes later, after DA Chatham was granted additional time to confer with witnesses. When the court reconvened at 1:30 p. m., the prosecuting attorney motioned for more time to talk with and locate several witnesses. The motion was sustained over the protest of defense attorneys.

As the jurors filed out of their quarters at the Delta Inn hotel Wednesday morning, a fire cross, symbolic of the Ku Klux Klan, was still smoking outside the hotel. No reports as to whether any action would be taken in the latest attempt to apparently frighten the jurors.

Weekly

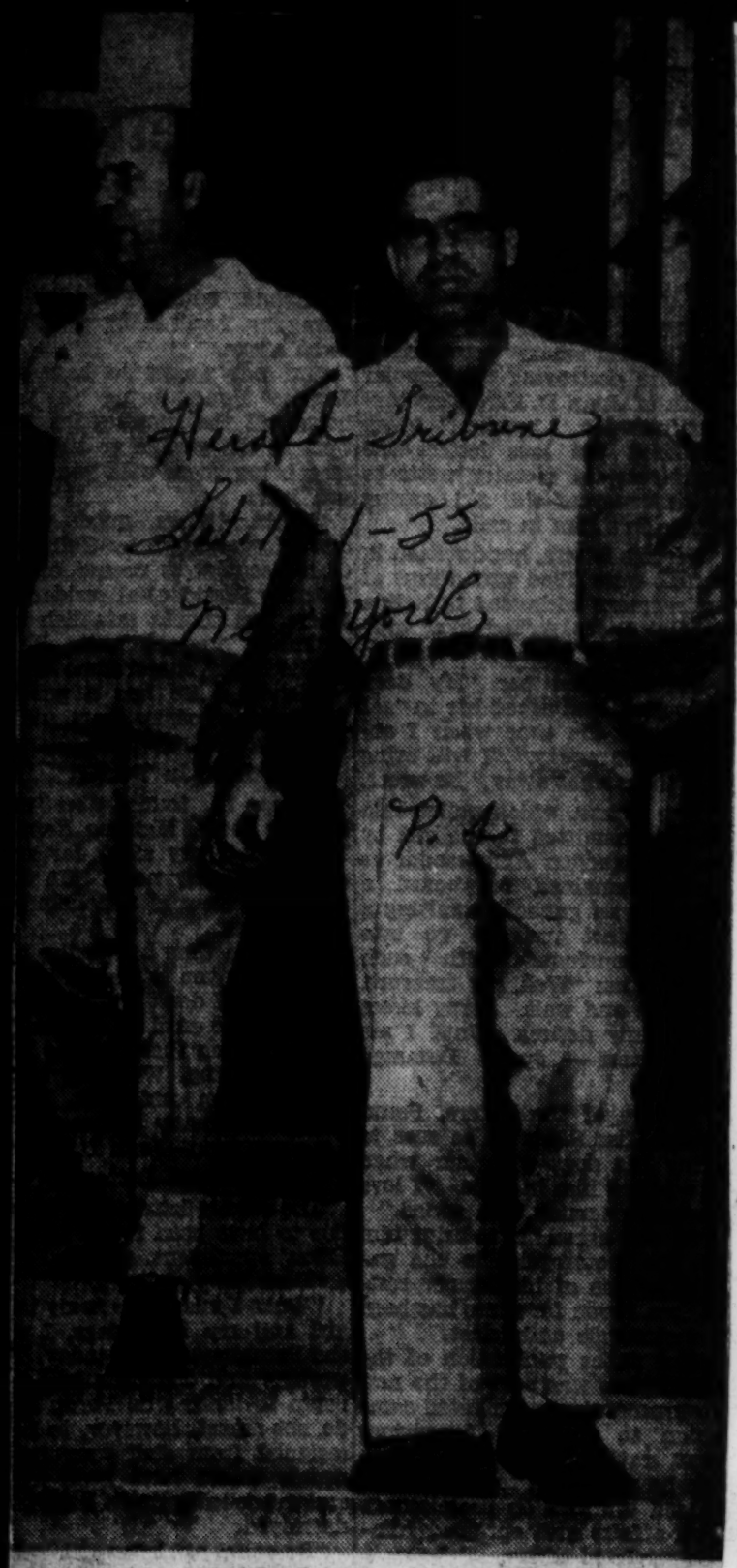
The court session opened at 9:16 a. m. and Wright was the first witness called to the stand. Speaking in a loud and determined manner, the tenant farmer recounted the picture of what took place on the fatal morning when he was aroused from sleep. Repeatedly during cross examinations, the defense attempted to befuddle and rattle the old man's account with rapidfire questioning. Judge Swango admonished both sides during the testimony when they cross-fired at each other.

A hush fell over the overcrowded courtroom when Wright pointed to the brothers as the persons who came to his home and took Till away. The court recessed around 10:30 a. m. for about 10 minutes before continuing at press time.



Weekly
Sat. 9-24-
P. 1
New O , La.

One of the most widely-publicized and sensational murder trials since the recent trial of Dr. Samuel Sheppard in Cleveland, Ohio, opened Monday in little Sumner, Mississippi, when two half brothers went on trial for the now famous "wolf whistle" death of Emmett L. Till, left. The brothers, Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam, both shown left to right in the second scene with one of their battery of five attorneys in the overflowed tiny courtroom. The bottom photo shows a portion of the huge crowd seeking admittance into the courtroom. The white arrow shows a deputy sheriff as he searches everyone, including newsmen and photographers, for weapons before entering the courtroom. Although a "special" Negro press table was located in the front of spectators near the rail, both white and Negro newsmen and photogs worked side by side in covering the trial.



Associated Press wirephoto

OUT ON BAIL—J. W. Milam (left) and Roy Bryant leaving Leflore County Courthouse in Greenwood, Miss., yesterday.

Till Boy Hinted Alive; Mother Decries 'Hoax'

Inquirer
Fri. 9-30-55

GREENWOOD, Miss., Sept. 29 (AP).— Two white men accused of kidnaping a 14-year-old Chicago Negro boy seek freedom on bonds tomorrow amid rumors that the boy, Emmett Louis Till, is alive.

The rumors were not confirmed. Mrs. Mamie Bradley, Till's mother today called them "a cruel hoax."

Around-the-clock police protection was provided in Chicago for Mrs. Bradley and Willie Reed, 18-year-old farmhand, State witnesses in last week's murder trial of Roy Bryant, 24, and his half-brother, John W. Milam, 36.

ACQUITTED BY JURY

A country jury at nearby Sumner last Friday found Bryant and Milam innocent of murdering the vacationing Chicago boy. They still face a kidnaping charge and will seek release on bond at tomorrow's hearing.

Contradictory identification of a body found in the Tallahatchie River influenced the jury in freeing the men and set off speculation about Till's whereabouts if he is alive.

Mrs. Bradley said in Detroit, "I am willing to have my boy's body exhumed from the vault for a thorough examination if that would dispel these wild rumors."

SHERIFF TELLS OF RUMORS

Sheriff H. C. Strider said in nearby Charleston he had heard the rumors Till was alive in Detroit.

"I definitely believe he's somewhere, but I don't know where," the 270-pound sheriff said.

Strider and two other defense witnesses testified the body found in the river had been dead at least eight days. If they were correct the body could not have been Till's. He was missing only three days when the body was found.

IDENTIFIED BY KIN

The boy's mother and Moses Wright, his sharecropper uncle identified the body positively as Till's. The lad was abducted from Wright's cottonfield shack near Money in the early hours of Aug. 31.

Officers testified at the murder trial that Milam and Bryant admitted taking the boy but said they released him unharmed when they found he was not the Negro who allegedly whistled and molested Mrs. Bryant at Bryant's country store.

The alleged kidnaping took place in Leflore county. The body was found in neighboring Tallahatchie county, so the murder trial was held in Sumner.

2 Released On Bond in Mississippi

N. Y. Herald Tribune
Sat. 10-1-55
Philadelphia
N. Y.

Free in Slaying, 2 Face New Trial

GREENWOOD, Miss., Sept. 30 (AP).—Two white men, acquitted of the "wolf whistle" murder of Emmett Louis Till but still facing charges of kidnaping the fourteen-year-old Chicago Negro, were released in $10,000 bond each today.

Roy Bryant, twenty-four, and his half brother, J. W. Milam, thirty-six, were congratulated upon their release by Leflore County Sheriff George Smith and several bystanders. Judge Charles Pollard granted the bond after an informal, three-minute hearing.

Bryant and Milam, who were acquitted by an all-white jury of murder charges in neighboring Tallahatchie County last Friday, appeared nervous and uncomfortable during the hearing. Accompanied by their lawyers and a small group of friends, the two men left the courthouse by a side entrance and sped away in an automobile accompanied by another brother, Ed Milam.

"Cotton Picking to Do"

Milam told reporters he was going back to his home near Glendora, where "there's some cotton picking I've got to do."

Bryant said he planned to reopen his store in Money, Miss., where Emmett allegedly insulted Bryant's wife with a "wolf" whistle" four days before he was abducted from the tenant farm home of an uncle he was visiting.

The men had been in jail since their arrest a few hours after Emmett was abducted on Aug. 28.

Face Kidnaping Charge

Bryant and Milam were tried for murder in Sumner, Miss., in Tallahatchie County, because the victim's body was found in the Tallahatchie River in that county. They face the kidnap charges in Leflore County, where Emmett was abducted. A grand jury is expected to take up the charges in November.

Bryant and Milam earlier admitted taking Emmett from his uncle's home but contended they released him unharmed after deciding he was not the boy who insulted Mrs. Bryant.

During the trial Emmett's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley of Chicago, identified the body claimed by the prosecution to be Emmett's as that of her son. However, jury members said the state had failed definitely to establish the identity of the body.

Back Plea to Brownell

The Jewish Labor Committee yesterday joined the A. F. L. Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters in urging Attorney General Herbert Brownell jr. to order an F. B. I. investigation into the disappearance of two Negro witnesses in the slaying of Emmett Till.

The telegram to Mr. Brownell from Adolph Held, national chairman of the J. L. C., asked that "in view of the bigoted atmosphere in Mississippi, the F. B. I. and United States Attorney's office proffer full protection to those who stepped forward and gave them information which would bring those responsible for this dastardly crime before the bar of justice."

"American prestige has suffered because of this case," Mr. Held wired, "and the Communists and racial bigots have exploited this murder for their own nefarious purposes. Internal morality is also on trial in this case. Please accede to the requests of responsible anti-totalitarian organizations such as the brotherhood, the N. A. A. C. P. and ourselves in making the F. B. I. available to track down the missing Negro witnesses."

Earlier, A. Philip Randolph, president of the brotherhood, in a telegram to Mr. Brownell also appealed for an inquiry into the whereabouts of Leroy Collins and Henry Lee Loggins, who have been missing since the abduction and death of Emmett.

8799

Why Emmett Till's Mother and NAACP couldn't agree

Afro-American Sat. 12-31-55 P.2
Baltimore, Md.

By JAMES L. HICKS

NEW YORK, N.Y. — "I want a minimum of $150 for each meeting with a stipulation that I will not have to speak at more than three meetings a week, I want my father paid $100 a week for accompanying me as a traveling companion and I want the NAACP to relieve me of and take care of the expenses of my home while I'm away."

These were the terms offered by Mrs. Mamie Bradley, grief-stricken mother of 14-year-old Emmett L. Till, Thursday as she explained to reporters the differences between her and the NAACP which caused it to cancel her nationwide speaking tour before NAACP branches.

The NAACP cancelled Mrs. Bradley's tour last month. Since that time, people all over the nation have been divided as to whether the organization should have given Mrs. Bradley the money or whether it took the best way out in cancelling the tour.

* * *

MRS. BRADLEY, in presenting her side to reporters at the Theresa Hotel, was asked what were the minimum terms she would accept to resume her speaking tour under NAACP membership.

She outlined the terms as stated above, adding that expenses for her home include payments on debts of $400 left to her by her husband and payment of mortgage notes on her home.

Charging that the NAACP has "used the case of Emmett Till for its own gain," Mrs. Bradley said "what I really wanted was to work out a civil suit against J. W. Milam and Mrs. Carolyn Bryant."

* * *

MILAM WAS tried and acquitted of the murder of her son after Mrs. Bryant had accused the boy of "wolf whistling" at her.

Mrs. Bradley showed reporters correspondence between herself and Roy Wilkins, NAACP secretary, in an attempt to clarify the controversy.

Her letter to Mr. Wilkins, dated Nov. 9 after he had cancelled her tour because he felt her terms were too high, indicated that she at that time asked Mr. Wilkins to let her resume the tour under the original terms.

But she indicated Thursday that her terms were now different from those outlined in her letter. Asked if she had talked with NAACP officials while in New York, she said she had.

Asked whom in the NAACP she would be willing to sit down with in an attempt to patch things up, she said she would gladly talk with Dr. Tobias, but her father, John Cothran, stated flatly that he would "rather leave the NAACP out "of her current speaking tour.

Mrs. Bradley's letter to Mr. Wilkins and his reply to her follows:

Nov. 9, 1955

Dear Mr. Wilkins:

I want to repeat the substance of what we tried to say to you on the telephone today.

The objectives of the NAACP are of much greater concern to me than my pocketbook. I set out to trade the blood of my child for the betterment of my race; and I do not now wish to deviate from such course.

I feel very bad that the opportunity to talk for the Association would be taken from me. I know that you have tried very hard and sincerely to see to my day-to-day financial needs. It is unfair and untrue for anyone to say otherwise.

If NAACP is willing to continue to do what it has to defray my travel and living expenses, that should suffice.

Please let me go forward for NAACP. It is a duty. I would not want it said that I did anything to shirk it.

Very sincerely yours,
MAMIE BRADLEY

Mr. Wilkins' reply:

Nov. 15, 1955

Dear Mrs. Bradley:

I have your letter of Nov. 9 which I placed before the board of directors of the association at its meeting yesterday.

We are glad to have your assurance that the objectives of the NAACP are of infinitely greater concern to you than any financial gain.

This assurance was in line with your conversation with me here in our office Oct. 8 when Mr. Moon of our staff, Mr. Theodore Rayfield Mooty were also present.

* * *

IT WAS because of that assurance that we entered into a verbal agreement with you to have the association handle all engagements for you from that date forward on the basis of all expenses, plus a minimum honorarium of $100 per meeting.

You said this was acceptable to you except that you felt strongly that Mr. Mooty was necessary to your tour, that he made a speech which supplemented yours, and that you would like his expenses included in this agreement.

We mentioned the West Coast tour which Mr. Williams of our regional office in San Francisco had already proposed to you to begin in November.

You said the terms — $1,100 for eleven meetings plus expenses — were alright.

* * *

MR. MOOTY said it was the best planning yet proposed to you and that both of you would be glad to have the NAACP relieve you of the confusion involved in handling requests from various groups over the country since you had found yourself doubling back over the same territory several times at great expense.

You said, however, that Mr. Williams objected to paying for Mr. Mooty. I pointed out that such a tour was expensive and that you, not Mr. Mooty, were the one the people wished to see.

You than said that you considered Mr. Mooty so necessary to your making any such tour that you would pay his expenses out of the honoraria you received.

Thereupon I offered to defray Mr. Mooty's transportation to the West Coast and return only, but not his expenses while there.

I explained that our branches were not accustomed to paying travel expenses for two speakers, especially since one had no connection with the issue to be discussed.

Mr. Mooty said my offer was a generous one and you agreed.

We parted with the understanding that you were to send me a list of the dates applied for, indicating your acceptances, and all correspondence; and that except for an Oct. 18 engagement you already had made with a church group in Washington, D.C., and another in Chicago Nov. 7 when you would leave for the West Coast.

* * *

YOU SENT us all the materials and we arranged all dates. We purchased and sent you two airline tickets for each short tour plus money for incidental expenses en route.

The branches were to give you a minimum honoratium of $100 and our records indicate that they did so, with some paying you $150 and at least one $300. Some paid hotel bills.

Apparently, everything was proceeding smoothly. In telephone conversation with me Oct. 20 and 21 you said you were disturbed by some developments involving Mr. Mooty.

I advised you that your arrangements with Mr. Mooty were your own affair, but that after you had given me some details I suggested you talk with Mr. W. Robert Ming of Chicago who is a member of our national legal committee.

* * *

LATER YOU telephoned me that you had taken care of the Mooty angle and wanted to take your father on tour as your companion. I then said we would pay his expenses and so advised Mr. Williams.

Despite the increased cost to us, we wanted the Mississippi story to be told to the people in person, and we wanted you to have peace of mind about the trip.

In the light of these developments, it was a shock, therefore, to learn on Nov. 7, the day you were to leave for San Francisco, that Mr. Williams had been informed you had missed the flight on which we had purchased (tickets) two seats because you were "busy shopping," and that you felt you had to have more money.

Subsequently, Mr. Williams informs us that you told him you would arrive at about 5:00 a.m. Nov. 8, but later he had a conversation with a Mrs. Anna Crockett who said she was your personal representative.

Mrs. Crockett finally wound up the conversation by asking for a guarantee of $5,000. Mr. Williams, frantically, because of the advance expenses already incurred, telephoned me.

I telephoned your home about 10:05 p.m., Nov. 7, but Mrs. Crockett would not let me speak with you, saying she was your personal representative and secretary and would talk for you.

She confirmed her conversation with Mr. Williams and I thereupon asked her to tell you that we were cancelling your appearances and, because of the last-minute (details) deadline, were issuing a statement to the press.

When you had Attorney Joseph Tobias telephone me Nov. 9 he at first said the whole thing was misunderstanding, but when I recited to him the sequence of events, he said that perhaps your attitude of that day (wanting to continue the speaking tour) could be called "a change of heart."

He said you would sign a statement or write a letter, but you very much wanted to continue helping the NAACP.

* * *

THEN CAME your letter, and it expresses very fine sentiments, the ones you expressed on our first meeting. However, it makes no mention of the events of Nov. 7 or of Mrs. Crockett.

It does not admit that any such conversations took place, nor does it disavow them or seek to explain them in any way.

Instead it implies that we have "taken" from you the opportunity to talk for the association; that we have little concern for your day-to-day expenses; and that in the past we have turned over to you only your travel (expenses) and living expenses.

We took nothing from you; as an association we could not enter into any commercial lecture arrangements. We do not split fees or collections; we do nothing on a percentage or commission basis. We never have done so throughout our history.

The public gives money to help a cause when it gives to a meeting sponsored by the NAACP. If speakers want to help a cause, well and good. If not, we hold such meetings as we can arrange.

* * *

YOU WILL remember that I explained all this in our conference of Oct. 8. I did say that in your case a minimum honorarium of $100 per meeting I was sure would be regarded as reasonable by our branches. Our records indicate that these honoraria (from our branches alone) have averaged between $400 and $500 a week.

Beginning Oct. 7 and ending Nov. 4, you spoke in New Brunswick, N.J.; St. Louis, Mo.; Alton, Madison and East St. Louis, Ill.; Gary and Indianapolis, Ind.; Grand Rapids, Mich.; Des Moines, Iowa; Omaha, Nebr.; Wichita, Kansas; Baltimore, Md.; Richmond, Va.; Chester, Pa.; and Akron, Ohio.

The total amount paid in honoraria for this period was $2,156. In addition, we paid all traveling and incidental expenses except for New Brunswick where you spoke on your own arrangement before we took charge; and for the Illinois and St. Louis engagements which you made prior to our taking over.

* * *

FOR THOSE you paid your own expenses out of the total of $650 given you for those appearances.

I am sure you can understand that the ultimatum delivered to us on Nov. 7 by Mrs. Crockett, as your agent, left us no alternative but to cancel.

We did this with deep regret because, in all our talks, you yourself had seemed to want to aid the general struggle to improve conditions in Mississippi and the South so that, pray God, no other Emmett Till tragedies will strike the hearts of other mothers.

Sat 12-31-55 P2

We could do nothing with Mrs. Crockett and we could not get through to you. It was the last minute of the last hour. We had to act!

I do not need to tell you that the NAACP is available for consultation and advice on matters in connection with your situation.

Baltimore, Md.

We intend to press the fight in an organized manner on the whole miserable mess in the South to the end that our people may freely enjoy their rights as American citizens.

Sincerely yours,
Roy Wilkins
Executive Secretary

Tells Her Story

Courier

Mother Of Till Bitter!

Pittsburgh Co. Let. 12-24-55 p. 3

NEW YORK—Bitter about being "dropped" by the NAACP after a "misunderstanding," Mrs. Mamie Bradley, mother of Emmett Till, was nonetheless hopeful of a conference with NAACP officials and anxious to resume her speaking tour under their sponsorship.

In New York, en route to speaking engagements in Brooklyn, New Haven and Jersey City, Mrs. Bradley said she estimated that more than $100,000 had been collected throughout the country for the "Till case." She said she had thought that the money would be used to institute a civil suit.

"People were asked," she said, "to give money to fight the legal end of the Till case. I'm still wondering what is being done legally."

Mrs. Bradley's father, John Carter, who is accompanying her her current tour, was vehement in his condemnation of the NAACP.

"I believe the NAACP is using Emmett Till for its own use," he declared. "It seems to me that as long as my daughter can be useful to them, everything's all right, but the minute she asks for something, it's a different matter."

• • •

MRS. BRADLEY said that the NAACP had accused her of making unreasonable demands. These demands, she said, were a minimum of $150 a meeting, and not more than three meetings a week, and a person to accompany her on the road, paid by the NAACP. She added that she would like to confer with one or more NAACP representatives who would help "straighten out the mess" and who would relieve her of her financial worries at home. Mrs. Bradley asserted that she is in great financial stress, that she is being run down by creditors, that even before her son was killed she was loaded down with debts incurred by her husband.

Mrs. Bradley claimed that when she sought to lay her problems before Atty. Robert Ming of Chicago, he told her that "if it hadn't happened to you, it would have happened to someone else'."

Mrs. Bradley made public a letter she had written to Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the NAACP, on Nov. 9. In it she wrote, " . . . the objective of the NAACP is of much greater concern to me than my pocketbook. I set out to trade the blood of my child for the betterment of my race; and I do not now wish to deviate from such course. I feel very bad that the opportunity to talk for the association would be taken from me. I know tht you have tried very hard and sincerely to see to my day-to-day financial needs. It is unfair and untrue for anyone to say otherwise. If the NAACP is willing to continue to do what it has to defray my travel and living expenses that should suffice. Please let me go forward for the NAACP. It is a duty. I would not want it said that I did anything to shirk it."

• • •

IN A LENGTHY reply, Mr. Wilkins reviewed the developments since early October when "we entered into a verbal agreement with you to have the association handle all engagements for you . . . on the basis of all expenses, plus a minimum honorarium of $100 per meeting. You said this was acceptable to you except that you felt strongly that Mr. Mooty (Theodore Rayfield Mooty, cousin of Mrs. Bradley's step-father)) was necessary to your tour, that he made a speech which supplemented yours, and that you would like his expenses included in this agreement."

Mr. Wilkins' letter covered the period during which Mr. Mooty was substituted by Mrs. Bradley's father as her travel companion. It expressed "shock" that on the date Mrs. Bradley was to have flown to San Franc sco she had missed the plane and that in a phone conversation with a Mrs. Anna Crockett, "who said she was your personal representative," Mrs. Crockett asked for a guarantee of $5,000. It was at this time that the NAACP cancelled Mrs. Bradley's appearances and issued a statement to that effect to the press.

"We took nothing from you," Mr. Wilkins wrote. "As an association we could not enter into any commercial lecture arrangements. We do not split fees or collections; we do nothing on a percentage or commercial basis. We never have done so throughout our history. The public gives money to help a cause when it gives to a meeting sponsored by the NAACP. If speakers want to help a cause, well, and good. If not, we hold such meetings as we can arrange.

Courier Pitt

"I am sure you can understand that the ultimatum delivered to us on Nov. 7 by Mrs. Crockett, as your agent, left us no alternative but to cancel. We did this with deep regret because in all our talks you, yourself, had seemed to want to aid the general struggle to improve conditions in Mississippi and the South so that, pray God, no other Emmett Till tragedies will strike the hearts of other mothers. We could do nothing with Mrs. Crockett and we could not get through to you. It was the last minute of the last hour. We had to act!

"I do not need to tell you that the NAACP is available for consultation and advice on matters in connection with your situation. We want to press the fight in an organized manner on the whole miserable mess in the South, to the end that our people may freely enjoy their rights as American citizens."

8800

Thousands At Rites For Till

By ROBERT ELLIOTT

More than 50,000 people appeared to mourn over the body of 14-year-old Emmett Louis Till as it lay in state in the Rayner Funeral Home at 4141 Cottage Grove, on Friday.

Throughout the night the lines stretched a blocklong outside the home.

The scene was duplicated as thousands attempted to get into funeral services at Chicago's Roberts Temple Church of God in Christ, 4021 S. State st. A public address system carried the service to the crowds standing in the streets Saturday.

Rev. Isiah Roberts officiated at the service. He called the burial lynching of the boy a black mark against the U. S. and called for justice and a swift trial of the boy's slayers.

BISHOP GIVES EULOGY

The eulogy was delivered by Bishop Louis Ford.

Officials of the funeral home where the angry, the awed and the curious filed in to view the remains of the boy, who may or may not have insulted a white woman, declared they had never seen anything like it.

Many of the people were in an angry mood, they said.

As the crowd grew larger, police assistance was needed to keep the line moving and the people under control.

The condition of the body did not help, said a Rayner spokesman. Efforts at reconstruction were hampered by the advance decomposition of the body.

The boy was found three days after his body had been thrown into the Tallahatchie river. The marks of his barbed wire bindings were still visible.

The people saw them and grew angry.

Few of them had ever seen or heard of "Bo" Till until he whistled or made an ugly remark to a white woman in Mississippi and doomed himself.

Most of them were thinking it is no crime for a boy to whistle at a pretty woman. They were thinking, "My son might do it—or yours."

And thinking that, they suddenly felt "Bo" Till belonged to them. And they came to see him. Many of them talked to him.

They all swore they'd never forget him.

Brownell Orders Voting Probe

Defender Chicago, Ill. Sat. 9-10-55

WASHINGTON — The FBI last week launched an investigation into charges that Negroes were denied the rights to vote in last month's Mississippi primary elections.

Announcement of the probe by Atty. Gen. Herbert Brownell, jr., followed on the heels of the brutal lynching of 14-year-old Emmett Till of Chicago. Till had been visiting relatives in Money, Miss. Rumor here held that Brownell had been forced into the probe because of the nationwide furor aroused by the slaying.

The Justice Department had previously refused to investigate the elections despite public statements by white officials that every thing possible would be done to keep Negroes away from the polls.

Brownell declared, "Reports indicate that in some counties Negroes were refused ballots when they allegedly failed to answer correctly irrelevant and probably illegal questions."

"I have already directed that an investigation be conducted," he said. "If it discloses that any citizen has been depirved of his constitutional rights, immediate and vigorous action will follow."

The Brownell announcement stated that in several counties the indications were that ballots cast by Negroes were apparently not counted and that Negroes were kept from the polls by threats and intimidation.

had been active in the vote registration drive.

The situation in Mississippi has been growing steadily worse since the Supreme Court outlawed segregation in public schools on May 17, 1954.

Whites in the state have organized themselves into groups known as the Citizens Councils and have attempted to effect an economic freeze in order to force Negroes to stop "agitating" for integration.

The NAACP charged that Mississippi has decided to maintain white supremacy by killing children.

Tuskegee Institute late last week was investigating the slaying to see if it can be officially classified as a lynching.

Mississippi had been free of lynchings since 1951 until last May.

Young Till is the third person to fall in Mississippi's "anti-Negro war" in less than five months.

The Rev. George W. Lee, 51, was blasted to death by unknown persons in Belzoni, Miss., and Lamar Smith, 63, was shot to death virtually on the court house steps in Brookhaven on Aug. 13.

Urge Eisenhower To See That Justice Is Served'

Defender Chicago, Ill. Sat. 9-10-55

(FULL PAGE PICTURES, PAGE 5)

Richard J. Daley, mayor of Chicago, last week urged President Dwight D. Eisenhower to use all the facilities of the federal government to see that justice is served on the slayers of 14-year-old Emmett Louis Till of Chicago.

Meanwhile, the boy's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley, of Chicago, declared:

"The whole state of Mississippi is going to pay for this thing. He was a good boy. I know he didn't d anything to deserve that."

Till's body was found Wednesday in the Tallahatchie river by Floyd Hughes, 17, while fishing.

Leaders and government officials in Illinois and throughout the country deplored the ugly incident and called for immediate action.



MRS. MAMIE BRADLEY

Splitting Hairs Over 'Lynching'

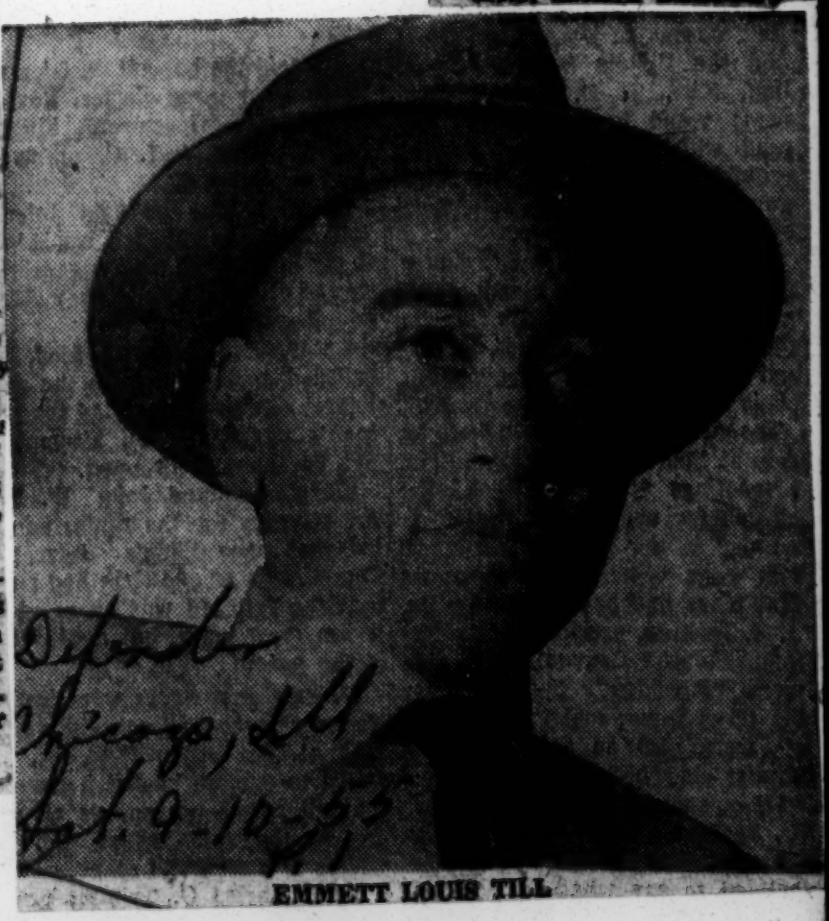
Gov. Hugh White of Mississippi has said the slaying of 14-year-old Emmett Louis Till was "not a lynching." He called it "straight out murder."

It appears that the Governor was splitting hairs, but for the record, Noah Webster's dictionary defines "lynch" as "to inflict punishment, especially death, upon, without the forms of law, as when a mob captures and hangs a suspected person."

There seems to be no doubt that Till was being punished. The doubt is over what for.

However, to complete the definition, Noah Webster supplies the further information that a mob is the "disorderly element of the populace. . .a gang. . . criminal set . . . one (a member of these.")

Satisfied, Governor?



Defender Chicago, Ill. Sat. 9-10-55

EMMETT LOUIS TILL

'Murder,' White Says; Promises Prosecution

Chicago Defender 9/10/55
Chicago, Ill.
Sat. 9-10-55

An aroused and angry nation this week demanded quick justice for the kidnap-lynchers of 14-year-old Emmett Louis Till of Chicago, whose bound and mutilated body was found Wednesday in the Tallahatchie river near Money, Miss.

Even Mississippi's Gov. Hugh White, traditionally silent on such matters, promised a complete investigation and full prosecution of persons responsible.

However, Gov. White disagreed with the NAACP, which last week charged that the boy's slaying was an outright lynching. Gov. White termed it a "straight out murder."

White also denied the incident had any connection with desegregation of public schools in the South.

In a telephone interview with the Chicago Defender Thursday, White said:

"The people of Mississippi and the governor's office do not condone such an act. I am going to order, immediately, a complete investigation of that affair."

Young Till, accused of whistling at the wife of Roy Bryant, a Money, Miss., storekeeper, had been missing since Sunday, when he was spirited away from the home of an uncle, Moses Wright, a tenant farmer.

Accused of kidnapping and slaying Till are Bryant and his half brother, J. W. Milam. Officers issued a kidnap warrant for Mrs. Bryant late last week.

The case was scheduled to go before the grand jury early this week and Greenwood and Tallahatchie county law officials promised to obey the governor's order for a complete investigation and speedy prosecution of the case.

A 17-year-old fisherman found the boy's body floating in the Tallahatchie river. He had been shot in the head, beaten and a 150-pound cotton gin fan tied around his body with barbed wire.

Till was an eighth grade student at McCosh school in Chicago and lived with his mother in a second floor apartment at 6427 St. Lawrence.

The father, Louis Till, died in service in World War II. The boy's mother has been married and divorced since.



Defender
Chicago, Ill.
Sat. 9-10-55
9-10-55
A1

NEAR COLLAPSE from shock and grief, Mrs. Mamie E. Bradley sobs hysterically as the body of her son, 14-year-old Emmett Till, is taken from train at Chicago's Illinois Central Station. Mrs. Bradley's condition made it necesary for her to use wheel chair during this ordeal. Offering comfort in photo are Crosby Smith of Mississippi, an uncle of the lynched boy; and Mrs. Lillian Smith, of Chicago, aunt of Mrs. Bradley. Defender photo by Rhoden.

Blood On Their Hands

Defender P. 1 An Editorial

The lynching of 14-year-old Emmett Louis "Bo" Till of Chicago in Mississippi last week is an outrage to all decent American citizens, white, and colored, and dramatically points out to the world the ugliest aspects of life in our Democracy.

The Chicago youth vacationing in Mississippi was kidnapped from the home of relatives and brutally lynched after he was accused of whistling at the wife of a storekeeper in Money, Miss.

The blood of "Bo" Till is on the hands of the five candidates for governor of Mississipi who campaigned on an anti-Negro platform in the recent elections. They charged the atmosphere of the state for acts of violence.

Chicago, Ill.

We accuse these racist rabble-rousers with contributing directly to the murder of "Bo" Till and the lynching of American reputation for decency and respect for law and order in the eyes of the entire world.

No country that tolerates the barbarous hate-filling of a child within its midst deserves nor can it expect the respect of the civilized world. There can be no compromise this time. Your child can be the next victim of the white supremacists.

It is up to the administration in Washington to begin action once and for all to end the crime of lynching that has degraded our nation. Full justice must be meted out to the two men now being held for this dastardly crime. A federal anti-lynching law must be passed and in addition, it should be made a federal offense to interfere with or attack any religious or racial group in elections. Republicans and Democrats alike have been too quick to appease and forgive bigotry and its consequent acts of violence.

A1 9-10-55

Unless the Administration acts at once to stop this wanton and ruthless taking of lives, the blood of "Bo" Till, Rev. George Lee, Lamar Smith and the long line of martyrs in the fight for first class citizenship for the Negro in America will be on its hands and "all the perfumes of Arabia will not wash it away."

TWO WHITE FOR MURDER

World Birmingham Ala.

Indication State Would Not Ask For Death Penalty

Tues. 9-20-55 P.1

SUMNER, Miss. — Two white men went on trial here for the so-called "wolf Whistle" murder of young Emmett Louis Till, but there were strong indications the state would not ask for the death penalty from an all white southern male jury.

Feeling was mounting in this tiny, backward town of 500 population, and while high tension has developed between Negroes and whites, only white men are eligible for service on juries because not a single Negro is qualified to vote here.

As to the state and its demands, Dist. Atty. Gerald Chatham announced prospective jurors would not be questioned on their opinions of death as penalty for murder.

The statement was immediately interpreted that the state would not ask for a death sentence for Roy Bryant, 24, and his half brother J. W. Milam, 35.

Meanwhile, the defense was expected to use a statement of Sheriff H. C. Strider in an attempt to beat the conviction. Strider had expressed doubt that the body found was Till's, inspite of the fact the boy's mother had identified it as her son "beyond a shadow of a doubt."

The case, with its inter-racial implications, has evoked National as well as Regional interest. This quiet little town of 700 population is now awaiting the court drama with mixed feelings.

Emmitt Till, a Chicago boy visiting an uncle in Mississippi, was killed for allegedly "wolf-whistling" at Mrs. Bryant, 21. he and seven other Negro boys went to her husband's store in Money, Miss., on the night of August 24 to purchase bubble gum.

Early on August 28, the Till boy was taken from the home of his sharecropper uncle, Mose Wright, by Three days later his body was found inthe Tallahatchie River.

BRUTAL SLAYING

The boy had been shot through the head. His face was badly beaten and his body had been weighed down with a 150 pound cotton gin fan, secured with barbed wire.

Scene of the trial is a two-story brick courthouse, surrounded by a setting of big swaying oak trees. The facilities of the small court room, over which Judge Curtis M. Swango will preside, will be taxed to their utmost.

Newspapermen and photographers have flocked into Sumner from New York, Chicago, Detroit and other cities.

The local residents give the impression that they are anything but pleased over all the publicity that their community is likely to receive. Most of them hope the trial will be of short duration.

Gov. Hugh White of Mississippi, when asked to comment on the case declared that everything had been done to see that justice will prevail.

The jury to try Bryant and Milam will be chosen from a panel of 120 white men who have been ordered to be in the Courthouse on Monday.

Women cannot serve on Mississippi juries and there are no Negroes on the panel because a juror has to be a qualified resident voter.

NO NEGROES ARE REGISTERED IN TALLAHATCHIE COUNTY. THE RATIO OF NEGROES AND WHITES IN THIS REGION IS TWO NEGROES TO ONE WHITE

Defendents Bryant and Milam are now being held without bail in the county's second Judicial jail at Charleston.

They pleaded innocent to the charges of having kidnaped and murdered the Till boy. Police, however, said the two men admitted taking the boy from his uncle's home. Their story was, according to police, that they took the boy away to comfort Mrs. Bryant to see f he was the one whom she said "wolf-whistled" at her. They said she failed to identify the boy and that they turned him loose.

A star witness at the trial is expected to be Mose Wright the Till boy's great-uncle. Wright is 64 years old and gray haired. He was born and has lived and worked in Mississippi Delta all his life.

He is a tenant farmer on the plantation of G. C. Frederick.

Wright, who is an ordained minister in the Church of God In Christ, said Bryant and Milam came to his house at 2 o'clock the fatal morning, woke him and forced him to point the Till boy out of bed. He said they took young Till away in a car.

The case has provoked endless discussion is in the part of Mississippi which has a heavy Negro population.

Many of thewhite residents became nettled when the NAACP moved into the situation calling on the U. S. Department of Justice to halt what it labeled a "State of Jungle Fury" in Mississippi.

It is reported that some residents of the Delta have been sending Money to relatives of the accused men to aid in their defense.

Most of the contributions are said to have come from Humphreys County. This county in the Delta was the scene of the shotgun death of the Rev. George W. Lee, 51, a Negro minister on the night of May 7. Lee had been encouraging Negroes to register and vote before he was shot as he drove down a street in Belzoni, Miss.

No arrests were ever made.

Miss. Jury Won't Indict Suspects In Smith Killing

Daily World Atlanta, Ga.

Thurs. 9-22-55

BROOKHAVEN, Miss. — (INS) — Dist. Atty. E. C. Barlow, of Lincoln County, Miss., said Wednesday he will continue the investigation into the killing of a Negro during Mississippi's first democratic primary.

Three white men are charged with shooting 63-year-old Lamar Smith at the Brookhaven Courthouse during the balloting.

An all-white grand jury recessed Tuesday without indicting the three men, Noah and Mack Smith and Charles Falvey.

Barlow said he "has not received the cooperation in the prosecution and none of the summoned witnesses would divulge information to the grand jury."

The jury recommended "further investigation" and Barlow termed the matter a "miscarriage of justice."

The men, still charged with the shooting, are free under an aggregate bond of $20,000.

Here's Cast For Sumner, Miss. Trial

Defender Sat. 9-24-55 P.1

Pen Pictures Of Judge, Attorneys

Chicago, Ill.

The Judge

CLARKSDALE, Miss. — "Judge Curtis Swango is one judge who runs his court." That statement was made by W. M. Simpson, editor of the Sumner Sentinel, when he was queried about the Circuit court jurist who is on the bench during the Till trial in Sumner.

When this writer contacted Judge Swango in Sardis, Miss., (he had been expected in Sumner) Simpson's statement carried little doubt.

He expressed himself in a deep rich voice which carried authority and professional cordiality.

Judge Swango is quite youthful, but a veteran in the field of law. He is 47 and has served in the Mississippi legislature for 15 years. His prep school study was done at Sardis, where he is now residing.

He is a graduate of Millsap college, Jackson, Miss. and received his LL.B. degree from the University of Mississippi. He has been serving now four years as a jurist.

While in the Mississippi legislature, he served as chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. He has been married for 12 years.

Judge Swango was praised highly by residents of Sumner and of Memphis for his fairness toward the Negro. The consensus is "He's a fine man."

Picking Of Jury Delays Opening

Defender
Sat. 9-24-55

By L. ALEX WILSON
Defender Publications Writer

SUMNER, Miss. — When court adjourned Monday afternoon no jury had been selected to hear the case for and against two men charged with the kidnapping and murder of Emmett Till, 14-year-old Chicagoan.

But a number of things, many of them precedent making an unusual, had occurred.

Difficulty in selection of the jury can be attributed to several factors:

1. — They had contributed to a defense fund for J. W. Milam and Roy Bryant, half brothers charged with the crime.

2. — They were related to attorneys involved in the case or to the defendants.

3. — They had formed definite opinions about the case.

4. — They lived in the area where the crime was committed.

The day opened hot and humid, the heat eventually climbing to an almost unbearable 95 degrees that drove every one including Sheriff H. Z. Strider to abandon a white sports coat he was wearing when he briefed the press prior to opening of the court.

AT BRIEFING

This correspondent was the only Negro reporter present when the briefing occurred. Strider explained to the more than 100 newsmen present that he had provided seats for 22 white newsmen inside the rail where they could easily hear the proceedings.

The Negro press, he explained, was to be limited to four seats directly behind the rail where the public is seated.

"We don't mix down here," he explained, "and don't intend to start now."

Strider was advised by this writer that the Negro newsmen might not be able to hear proceedings well from their positions. He said "Whenever you are unable to hear just let me know. We'll have order in this court."

Sheriff Strider then told the newsmen they would have to go back downstairs and come up the front and into the courtroom and submit to search.

REPORTERS FRISKED

The reporters were lightly frisked and photographers had to allow deputies to rummage through their camera cases.

"I have received over 150 threatening letters and I don't intend to be shot. If there is any shooting, we would rather be doing it." Here he made reference to himself and to his deputies.

Judge Curtis Swango welcomed the press to the court after calling for order and allowed time before opening for photographers to make pictures. Here a precedent was established when a Negro photographer, J. J. Mason, representing Defender publications, climbed on chairs like other lensmen to get his "shots."

Then the judge laid down the rules for the press and others in the courtroom. No pictures were to be made during the transaction of the business of the court; no sketches; no recordings or broadcast.

He stated that smoking would be allowed and suggested that the men take off their coats for comfort.

Negro spectators numbering approximately 40 were seated and stood in the left rear of the courtroom. Outside of the court room in the corridor a crowd was jammed beneath the door.

The alleged slayers of Emmett L. Till, J. W. Milam and Roy Bryant, were brought into the court accompanied by their wives.

The wives and children arrived at the Sumner courthouse in a green 1955 Chevrolet with a Memphis-Shelby County license No. 294-247.

Defender

During the court session the children played about in the court room while both Milam and Bryant sat quietly and without handcuffs. Both of the wives appeared to be slightly worried and not once during the session was a smile noted on either face.

P2

DEFENDANTS SOMBER

Throughout the morning session both men maintained somber expressions. Milam appeared to be nervous, smoking incessantly and shifting about restlessly in his seat.

While almost the whole panel of 120 veniremen was being exhausted for one reason or another, six whites armed with shot guns were reportedly patrolling the area near Money, Miss., where the crime occurred. The purpose, it is believed, was to find out why so much Negro traffic had been going through the area.

Prosecution attorneys, Gerald Chatham and Roy Smith III, made clear in their challenges to members selected for trial jury that they would press for a fair and impartial trial.

CHALLENGE VENIREMEN

During the vigorous challenges three men were disqualified for contributing to a defense fund to aid the defendant; Six were tossed out for holding fixed opinions of the case and one was ordered to stand aside because he was the brother to one who had contributed to the defense fund. Another was disqualified because he was a distant relative of the defense attorney.

Earlier, Atty. Chatham said in his talk to the prospective jurors, "the State of Mississippi will take every step to see that an impartial and fair trial is held in this case."

When Atty. Smith took over the questioning he asked "Would you be moved by any consideration, race or anything else in helping to see that a fair trial is held?"

This line of questioning was responsible for eliminating most of the first panel selected for jury service.

What appears to be a lead to a sensational development in the Emmett L. Till slaying is now being investigated. This writer is unable to comment further at this time.

NEGRO NEWSMEN

Among the members of the Negro press present were: James Hicks of the Afro American Newspaper and NNPA; Simeon Booker, Clotye Murdock and David Jackson of Ebony; Mrs. Nannie Mitchell Turner, publisher of the St. Louis Argus, Steve Duncan and William B. Franklin of the St. Louis Argus; L. Alex Wilson, (Defender Publications) and Ernest Withers of the same paper.

Among members of the white press present were Clark Porteus of Memphis Press-Scimitar; John Popham of New York Times; Jim Kilgallen, of INS; Paul Burton, of INS; Murray Kempton of New York Post; William Desmond, New York Daily News and John Gunter of the Memphis Commercial Appeal.

8802

Latest Atrocity In Mississippi Arouses Nation

Courier
Sat. 9-10-55 P.1
Pittsburgh, Pa.

By THEODORE COLEMAN
(Courier Staff Correspondent)

CHICAGO, Ill.—"Let the people see what they have done to my boy!"

This agonized cry, wrenched from the pain-racked lips of Mrs. Mamie Bradley, can easily become the opening gun in a war on Dixie which can reveberate around the world.

More than 100,000 people from every walk of life . . . black and white alike . . . have walked by the pine casket of 14-year-old Emmett Till!

Emmett Till . . . a name to remember in the days . . . and months . . . and years to come!

• • •

A CHICAGO BOY . . . a former polio victim . . . who went to Mississippi to visit relatives, and returned to his home in a sealed casket.

Emmett Till . . . a healthy, observing youngster, who couldn't believe that any place in America was so barbaric . . . such a throwback to the "Savage Age" that they would take a life for naught!

Emmett Till . . . whose life was sacrificed on the altar of a fallacious "White Supremacy" doctrine!

Emmett Till . . . whose only "crime" was that he allegedly whistled at a white woman in Money, Miss.

Because of this boyish prank, Emmett was kidnapped from the home of his uncle and spirited away.

Three days later . . . his lifeless body . . . weighted down with a 150-pound cotton gin fan and with a bullet hole in his head, was found floating down Mississippi's Tallahatchie River.

Special details of detectives and police were on hand to keep traffic moving and see that the murmuring crowd of sympathizers remained in check.

Raynor and Sons' Funeral Home, several blocks away, had suffered a considerable amount of damage prior to the funeral last Friday when another crowd, also estimated at 10,000, had visited the establishment to view the remains.

Courier

BURIAL CEREMONIES were delayed until Tuesday of this week after Mrs. Mamie Bradley, mother of the victim, told the Courier that she wanted the people to see the corpse and to "realize the threat to Negroes in the Deep South and to what extent the fiendish mobs would go to display their unbridled hate."

Mrs. Bradley had insisted that the casket be opened when it arrived in Chicago, although it had been sealed when it left Mississippi.

Young Till, a victim of polio who stuttered, had been kidnapped at gunpoint from the home of an uncle in Money, Miss. by two white men.

He was later discovered, dead, body floating feet upward in the Tallahatchie River, ten miles from his uncle's home. The top of young Till's head had been smashed in. A bullet had entered his skull slightly above one ear. His body had been weighted down with a 150-pound blower from a cotton gin and tied to the heavy weight with barbed wire.

• • •

SCREAMS RENT the air in Roberts Temple as the final rites were held. Mourners, filing into the church, formed block-long lines which extended on both sides of the church.

One woman fainted at the sight of Emmett's battered remains. Others broke in loud and piercing, screaming sobs.

Bishop Louis H. Ford of the St. Paul Church of God in Christ intoned, "For as much as ye have done unto one of these, my little ones, ye have also done unto me."

Bishop Ford's sermon was based upon St. Matthew 18:6 in the Gospel.

Young Till's body was laid out in a pine casket.

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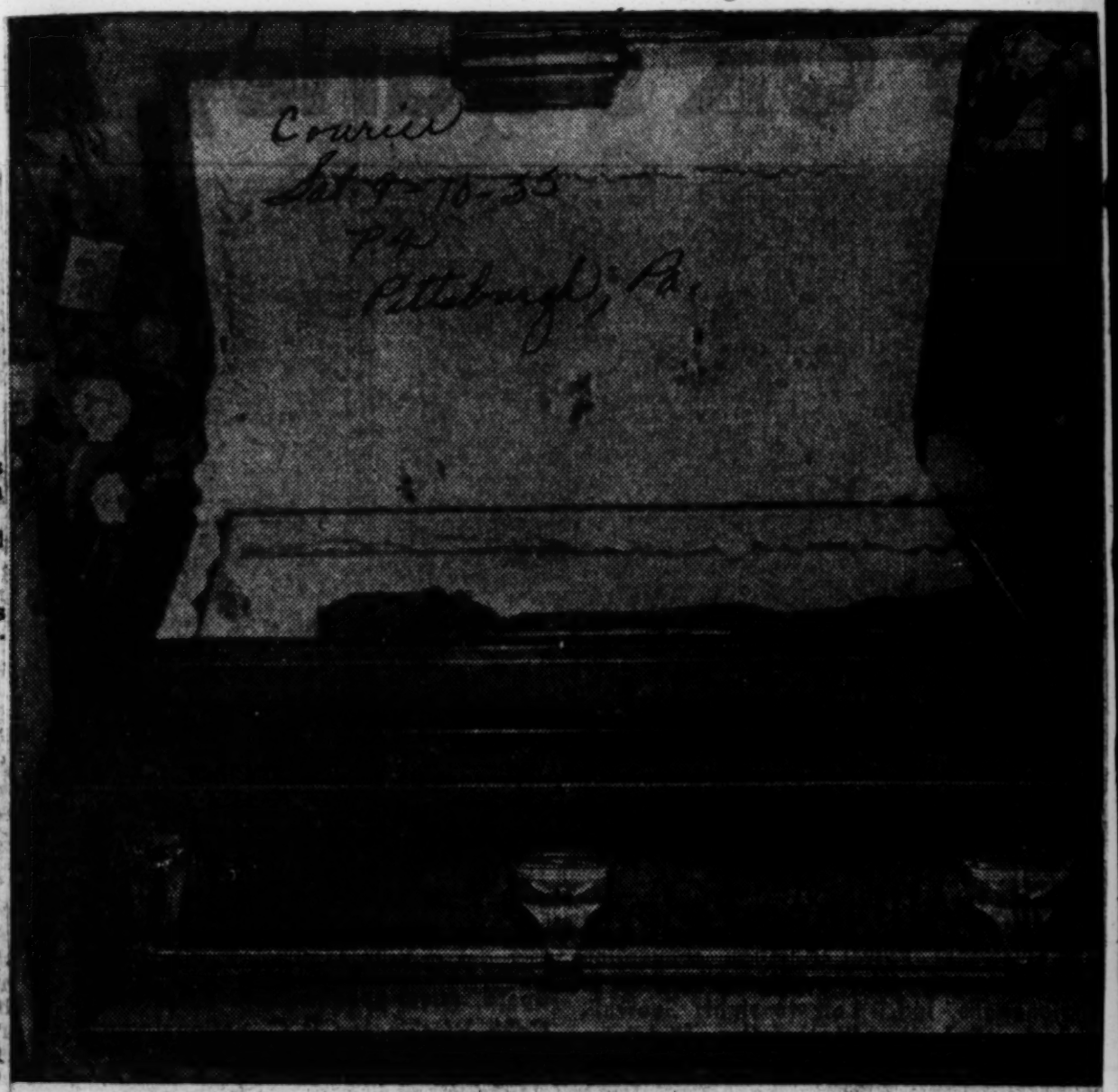
CHICAGO'S PUBLIC officials voiced indignation at the slaying.

Gov. William Stratton of Illinois has asked for a full investigation of the murder by authorities in Mississippi, and Chicago's mayor, Richard Daley, calling it a "brutal, terrible crime," sent a wire to President Eisenhower asking for Federal intervention in the case.

Mrs. Bradley, who has announced that she is ready to "give my life to stop this from happening to someone else," vowed, "Someone is going to pay for this. The entire state of Mississippi is going to pay for this. He didn't do anything to deserve this."

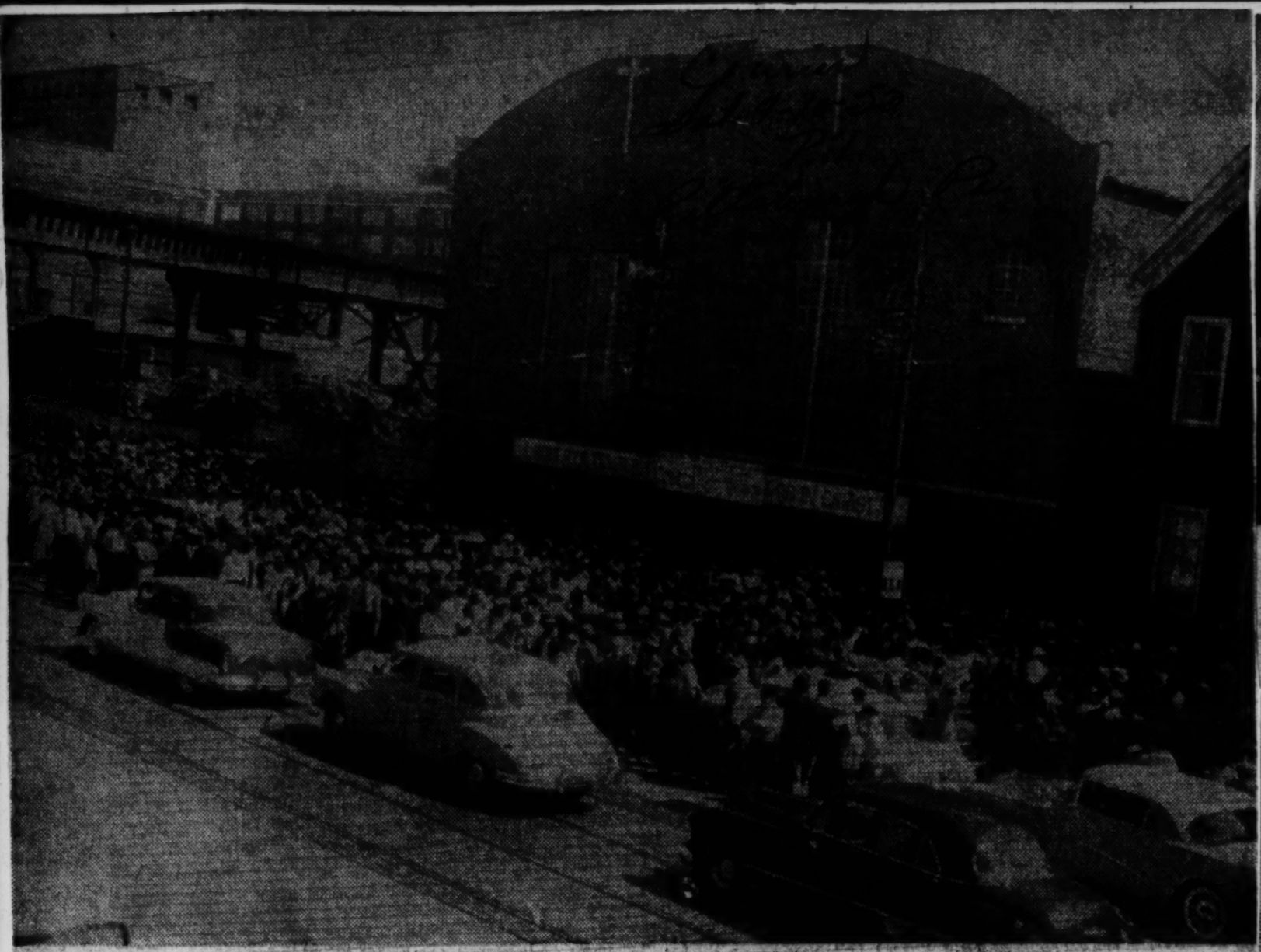
Mrs. Bradley's quick action had prevented a hasty burial for her son in Mississippi. She said, "I wouldn't want him buried in Mississippi under any circumstances."

She asserted that her son's death was an everyday occurrence in Mississippi. She added, "It's like walking into a den of snakes."



Courier
Sat. 9-10-55
P.1
Pittsburgh, Pa.

The Corpse—An effort was made to have Emmett Till buried in Mississippi without the body being embalmed. An uncle, who accompanied the body back to Chicago, revealed this fact. The corpse was so battered that Till was unrecognizable. The casket was opened in Chicago at the mother's request.



Rites for Lynch Victim— Thousands gathered at the Roberts Temple, Church of God in Christ, in Chicago for the funeral rites Saturday of Emmett Till, 14-year-old victim of Mississippi lynchers. Pictured is part of the huge crowd which jammed the area outside of the church which was packed with the curious and the sympathetic. More than one hundred thousand persons viewed the body before and after the funeral.



Emmett's Family— Seated, left to right, are Mrs. A Spearman, grandmother; Mrs. Mamie Bradley, mother; Mrs. Elizabeth Wright, step-grandmother, of Money, late 14-year-old Emmett Till, who was relatives of the lynchers because he allegedly whistled at a white woman.



EMMETT LOUIS TILL,
... taken for a "ride"

27a 1955

8803



BRYANT WITH FAMILY—Sumner, Miss.—Roy Bryant is shown yesterday with his family in the office of his attorney. Mrs. Bryant is holding their youngest son, Lamar, 2, and Bryant is holding Roy, jr., 4. Bryant and his half-brother, J. W. Milam, are on trial on charges of murdering Emmett Till, 14-year-old Chicago Negro.—AP Wirephoto.

State Set to Open Case Against 2 in Till Death

Evening Star
Sun. 9-20-55

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 20 (AP)—The State of Mississippi sets out today to try to prove that two white men killed a 14-year-old Chicago Negro boy who allegedly made offensive remarks and whistled at a white woman.

The evidence appeared to be heavily circumstantial—so much so the State doesn't plan to ask the death penalty.

Only two more jurors must be picked before the prosecution unveils its case against Roy Bryant, 24, and his balding half-brother, 36-year-old J. W. Milam. Both defendants are ex-servicemen.

Washington D.C.

State and defense attorneys agreed yesterday on 10 jurors for the all-male, all-white jury.

Children in Court

Through the tedium of juror questioning, the principals in this widely-publicized case sat quietly, frequently abandoning their silent contemplation of the steamy proceedings to tend their 2-year-old sons. Both Bryant and Milam brought their sons with them and for a time held them on their laps.

The two men are charged with killing Emmett Louis Till, a visitor from Chicago's South Side, who allegedly whistled at the 21-year-old Mrs. Bryant after offensive remarks.

The big mystery is what happened between the time young Till was taken from the home of his share-cropper uncle, Mose Wright, until the time the youth's body was found floating in the Tallahatchie River a few miles to the north.

The State says Bryant and Milam bludgeoned young Till, shot him to death and disposed of the body by weighting it and dropping it in the river. Bryant and Milam say they let the boy go unharmed.

Witnesses Lacking

One source close to the case said the State has no witnesses to actual events. District Attorney Gerald Chatham said he would not ask the death penalty "since a substantial part of the State's evidence is circumstantial."

Principal State's witness apparently is Mr. Wright, 64-year-old uncle who said three men took his nephew away under protest at 2:30 a.m. August 28.

The body was found three days later.

Mr. Wright, a short, thin Negro who is proud that he has never before had any dealings with the law, heard Till had made some remarks or wolf whistled at Mrs. Bryant.

The incident allegedly occurred August 24 in Bryant's country store in Money, a community near Greenwood in adjoining Leflore County. Till's body was found in the river one-fourth of a mile inside Tallahatchie County, shifting the trial site to Sumner instead of Greenwood.

Indentification Questioned.

The body itself offered still another thread in a bizarre pattern. Sheriff H. C. Strider has voiced some doubt as to indentification of the body as Till. The State almost certainly will try to establish this indentification in testimony.

Prime identification sources would include Till's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley of Chicago.

She planned to arrive in Sumner today. Mrs. Bradley left Chicago by airplane for Memphis last night. She said her plans called for her to spend the night in Memphis and go from there by car to Sumner. She said friends would meet her in Memphis.

Asked if she had followed the opening day of the trial, she said, "Yes, and I'm so pleased." She didn't elaborate.

Earlier yesterday Mr. Chatham had received the following telegram from Mrs. Bradley in Chicago:

"Sir, I am willing to attend the trial of Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam to be held in Sumner, Miss., beginning September 19 for the kidnap-lynching of my son, Emmett Louis Till. Would like to know what protection your office will provide for my safety. Will stay departure pending your instructions.

One Man Disqualified

Mr. Chatham said he wired back requesting that she leave immediately for Sumner. He said he told her he thought she was already in Sumner vicinity, ready to testify, and that her failure to make herself available was "not understandable."

But testimony awaited the impaneling of a jury yesterday.

Mr. Chatham asked the prospective jurors if race would influence their verdict. Only one man said it might. Circuit Judge Curtis Swango quickly disqualified him.

The district attorney did not question the men about their views on death as a penalty for murder.

Jurors could reach one of several verdicts:

Guilty as charged (death); guilty but disagrees on punishment (life imprisonment); guilty and specifies life imprisonment; guilty of manslaughter (second-degree murder in some States) punishable by 20 years in prison or by a minumum $500 fine, or not guilty.

Spectators Searched

Although Sheriff Strider searched newsmen and spectators for weapons as they filed into the courtroom, the day was quiet. Shrill childish laughter from the defendants' sons punctuated the steady, subdued hum of spectators.

Sheriff Strider, laying down rules to the press before the trial began, told Negro reporters and photographers they would have to sit at a segregated table, traditional in most of the South.



MURDER TRIAL JURY—Sumner, Miss.—These 12 men were seated yesterday in the jury box to hear testimony and decide the fate of Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam, charged with slaying Emmett L. Till, 14-year-old Chicago Negro. In front row (left to right) are Gus Ramsey, James Toole, L. L. Price, J. A. Shaw, jr.; Ray Tribble and Ed Devaney. Back row (left to right) are Travis Thomas, George Holland, Jim Pennington, Davis Newton, Howard Armstrong and Bishop Matthews. The alternate juror is not pictured.—AP Wirephoto.

State Claims New Break In Negro Boy's Slaying

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 21 (AP).—New witnesses with "absolutely newly discovered evidence" will be ready to testify today when the State begins trying to prove that the two white men murdered a 14-year-old Chicago Negro boy.

Their evidence will strengthen the State's case, which is mostly circumstantial evidence, Robert B. Smith III, a special assistant attorney general assigned to the prosecution, said.

He promised to give more details on the value of the new evidence today.

Mr. Smith and District Attorney Gerald Chatham will call the State's first witness in the trial of 24-year-old Roy Bryant and his 36-year-old half-brother, J. W. Milam. They are accused of murdering Emmett Louis Till, who allegedly whistled at Mrs. Bryant.

Witnesses Quizzed

Mr. Smith said field investigators talked to the witnesses through the early hours of today. At last night's press conference, he refused to answer a series of questions: How many witnesses, who they are, whether they witnessed the slaying, and whether their testimony would fill the three-day gap between the time young Till was taken from his uncle's home and the time his body was found in the Tallahatchie River.

The new witnesses popped dramatically into the case yesterday when Mr. Chatham obtained an afternoon halt in the trial to summon and question them.

The district attorney would not elaborate at that time on the witnesses as he postponed beginning the State's evidence in the slaying.

Mrs. Mamie Bradley, the slain boy's mother, created a stir when she entered the courtroom yesterday with her father and two other men.

She came without the official bodyguards she had requested.

Before leaving Chicago she had expressed some fear, but after arriving in Mississippi she said that no one had caused her any trouble.

Crowd Around Mother

White spectators from this race-conscious area watched as reporters and photographers—white and Negro — crowded around the short, 33-year-old mother.

She sat at a table set aside for Negro reporters and photographers. They were segregated from other members of the press.

Sheriff H. C. Strider, a jovial man who weighs 270 pounds, pushed his way through newsmen and handed a subpoena to Mrs. Bradley.

"You are now in the State of Mississippi!" he told her. "You will come under all rules of the State of Mississippi."

The subpoena made her a State witness in the trial of two storekeepers accused of murdering her son.

Representative Charles Diggs, Democrat of Michigan, joined her at the press table. He said he was attending the trial only as an observer.

A deputy sheriff halted the Negro Congressman as he tried to enter the crowded courtroom because there was no room. Mr. Diggs sent his calling card to Circuit Judge Curtis Swango and the judge had a deputy escort him to the Negro press table.

All-White Jury

Selection of the all-male, all-white jury was completed yesterday at 11 a.m., Central Standard Time. Women do not serve on Mississippi juries. Negroes can service if qualified to vote, but Tallahatchie County has no qualified Negro voters.

Twelve men will decide the fate of Bryant and Milam. An alternate 13th juror was chosen in case a regular juror becomes ill or dies.

The State has said it will not ask the death penalty for the men, since much of the State's case will be circumstantial evidence. The minimum penalty for murder is life imprisonment.

Mr. Chatham called 13 State witnesses yesterday—nine white and four Negro—after both sides approved the final juror. The jurors took the oath and Judge Swango called an early recess for lunch.

The tightly packed crowd pushed in even closer as court opened after lunch, expecting testimony to get under way.

"Several of the State's material witnesses were not available until this morning," Mr. Chatham told the judge as he requested the postponement yesterday.

He said he had learned of additional persons he wanted to summon.

Defense attorneys objected, contending the trial should continue.

Judge Swango replied that "the court does not think the request is unreasonable . . ."

Squeezed Into Room

Looking around at spectators squeezed into the room, the judge said: "We have such a crowded condition here today . . . that if a fire should develop a great tragedy would occur."

Outlining rules for today's session, he said: "We are not going to permit anybody to stand who doesn't have official business."

Three jurors, including the alternate, were chosen yesterday. Ten were picked Monday, first day of the trial.

Nine of the jurors are farmers, two are carpenters and one is a retired carpenter. The other is an insurance man.

Only one is a bachelor. All of the married jurors have children; one juror has nine.

Most of the jurors live in the northern and western sections of Tallahatchie County, well away from the spot where young Till's weighted body, a bullet hole in his head, was pulled from the river.

Each juror swore he would not let questions of race influence his verdict. Defense attorneys called nine witnesses to be sworn in. These included six of the witnesses already called by the State. The only additions were Mrs. Bryant, Mrs. Milam and Bryant's mother, Mrs. Eula Lee Bryant.

Defense attorneys said they also may call character witnesses and some expert witnesses.

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NAACP TO POINT UP DEATH OF PREACHER

Statewide Session Called In Belzoni For Tomorrow

LEADERS WILL SPEAK

By JAMES COOK
Staff Writer

BELZONI, Miss., May 20. — A statewide mass meeting of members of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has been called here for Sunday to bring new attention to the mysterious death of Rev. George W. Lee, Negro minister and Belzoni's NAACP leader.

Roy Wilkins of New York, who recently succeeded Walter White as executive secretary of the NAACP, announced Friday he would address the Mississippi Negro group.

"Protection" Asked

Other high officers of the organization slated to appear with him are Ruby Hurley of Birmingham, Southeast regional director, and Dr. A. H. McCoy of Jackson, Miss., state president.

A letter of invitation signed by Dr. McCoy declared, "we believe his death is to become by the hands of those who would keep us in slavery."

Dr. McCoy said his group has asked the Federal Bureau of Investigation "for protection" in Belzoni during the meeting. He said it will be held at the Negro Elks Home commencing at 2 Sunday afternoon.

The NAACP maintains Rev. Lee was murdered because he had been a leader in a recent campaign to get Negroes registered as voters. No Negro has voted here since Reconstruction Days.

The field secretary of NAACP's Mississippi division, Medgar W. Evers of Jackson, said the Sunday afternooon gathering will be a meeting of protest against the way law officers have handled their investigaiton of the Baptist minister's violent death May 7.

Evers said the meeting also will beu sed to denounce the local Citizen's Council, an organization of whites pledged to preserve racial segregation. Humphreys County was the second Mississippi county to form a Citizens Council. The first was Sunflower County, which adjoins Humphreys here in "the heart of the Delta."

'A Free Country'

Sheriff I. J. Shelton, who has lead the investigation of the 51-year-old minister's death, said his officers will do nothing to disturb the meeting unless laws are broken.

"What else is there to do but permit it?" said the sheriff. "This is a free country. And I don't want to be in somebody else's jail."

Leaders of the Humphreys County Citizen's Council took a similar position.

"They've got a right to meet and they're welcome to have it," said a prominent Citizen's Council leader. "We will leave it up to Sheriff Shelton and his officers to enforce the law. I'm sure he can handle it, and we won't go there unless Mr. Shelton calls for help."

The council leader asked that his name be withheld since the official spokesmen for the council here, tax consultant C. L. Puckett, was out of town. Mr. Puckett was a patient Friday at Baptist Hospital in Jackson, 80 miles away.

Meanwhile, Sheriff Shelton said his investigation of Lee's death was continuing. He added, however, that no suspects have been found and it is "one of the most puzzling" cases he has encountered in his long experience as a law officer.

"Nothing To Be Found"

A team of FBI agents has been in Belzoni in recent days investigating to determine whether any civil rights laws have been violated, "but they didn't find anything because there was nothing to be found," the sheriff said.

Rev. Lee died soon after his automobile swerved from a main in-town street and crashed into a house. The crash came on a Saturday midnight in a Negro neighborhood. He was taken to a hospital, bleeding badly from a torn jay and severed jugular vein. He was unable to speak before death came.

The sheriff said several Negroes who live in the area told him an automobile passed the minister's car on the right just before the crash and two noises like shotgun blasts were heard.

Ran Store, Too

Next day, several pellets and tiny metal fragments were found imbedded in Lee's face and in the flattened left front tire of his car, the sheriff said. Three of the pellets were identified by the Federal Bureau of Investigation as "similar in weight and composition to No. 3 buckshot."

Sheriff Shelton said he is not convinced the pellets are not fragments of tooth fillings.

He feels sure Rev. Lee was not killed by white men nor by anyone in the car that drove past, he said. He speculated Rev. Lee was either killed by another Negro or received the fatal injury from a timber of the house which speared through the windshield of his car.

Rev. Lee was pastor of Baptist churches at nearby Tchula, Lexington and Jackson. In addition to being a minister, he and his wife, Rosebud, operated a grocery store, he ran a small print shop and did part-time professional photographic work. He and his wife had been married 18 years.

PROTECTION IS ASKED FOR BELZONI MEETING

Local Officials Promised No Interference At NAACP Gathering Today

By JAMES COOK
Staff Writer

BELZONI, Miss., May 21. — Despite promises from Humphreys County officials that there will be no interference with their meeting, officials of Mississippi's National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Saturday asked Federal protection here Sunday afternoon.

The statewide rally is scheduled as a memorial service to Rev. George W. Lee, Baptist minister, who died under peculiar circumstances May 7.

Telegram Sent To Brownell

"In some sections of the state, the pretense of law enforcement officers to protect Negro citizens has collapsed since the advent of the white Citizens Councils," Dr. A. H. McCoy of Jackson, state NAACP president, declared.

He made the charge in a telegram to United States Atty. Gen. Herbert Brownell, although Sheriff Ike J. Shelton of Humphreys County had promised the Negroes that the meeting will not be disturbed as long as no laws are violated.

The official spokesman for the Humphreys County Citizens Council, C. L. Puckett, said his organization would not interfere with the Negro rally at 2 Sunday afternoon at Elks Rest.

"We are leaving it up to the sheriff," he said. "We don't bother any peaceable assembly."

Investigation Underway

Meanwhile in Washington, G. Frederick Mullen, director of public relations for the Justice Department, revealed the department had begun an investigation of the death of the Negro minster on May 7.

"We have a preliminary investigation going to determine if there is any Federal jurisdiction. We had had the investigation going for several days," Mr. Mullen said, "before a request for it was made by the NAACP."

In Memphis, C. Erwin Piper, special agent in charge of the FBI office, said no investigation is being conducted now.

"We did make a preliminary inquiry to determine whether there was a violation of the civil rights statute and the results were referred to the Department of Justice," he said.

Principal speaker at the Sunday rally will be Roy Wilkins of New York, head spokesman for the National NAACP, who is scheduled to arrive by plane in Jackson, 80 miles southeast of here, early Sunday. The New York attorney became executive secretary of the NAACP when Walter White died last year.

He will lead a protest against local handling of an investigation into the death of Rev. Lee, a leader in NAACP's campaign to get Negroes to the polls here.

Ill Feeling Has Grown

Leaders of both the NAACP and the Citizens Council agree that ill feeling between Negroes and whites has increased here in recent months.

A spokesman for the Citizens Council said the additional strife is being caused by "a few agitators" who, because of the United States Supreme Court's decision outlawing segregation in the schools, "have decided they're going to just take over."

NAACP spokesmen said the increased trouble has grown from the council's practice of using "economic pressure" against Negroes who speak out against segregation or try to vote.

Some council plantation owners have ordered their Negro field hands to turn out of Negro undertaker T. V. Johnson's burial association and have their funeral work done by the Negro undertaking firm of Smith and Dillon in Indianola. Johnson is recognized as a main NAACP leader in Belzoni now that Rev. Lee is dead.

Other outspoken Negroes—store owner Gus Courts, for one—have been denied credit by white businessmen who had extended credit to them for years. Dr. Clinton C. Battle, Negro physician of Indianola and Belzoni, said white employers had ordered some of his patients to stay away from him because of his NAACP work.

Says Negroes Lost Jobs

Dr. Battle said Negroes who had managed to get their names on the list of registered voters found themselves out of a job until they got their names off again.

A Citizens Council leader said this has been very effective. About 450 Humphreys County Negroes registered (but, because of the complicated state voting law, did not vote) in 1954. Only about 90 per cent of them registered this year, said the council leader.

No Negro has voted in Humphreys County since shortly after the Civil War.

The trickling of Negro registrations began after Sheriff Ike J. Shelton was called before a Federal Grand Jury in Oxford in 1953. A group of Negroes—Rev. Lee was reported to have been one of them—attempted to get the sheriff prosecuted for his refusal to accept poll tax payments from Negroes. There was no indictment, but now the sheriff makes a practice of accepting poll tax payments from Negroes as well as whites.

Deplores Publicity

W. D. Womack Sr., Belzoni's city attorney and father of State Representative Willie D. Womack Jr., said he deplores the publicity given the death of Lee.

"These press reports linking it with the Citizens Council are maligning all the people—all the citizens—of our town," he said.

Another council leader said that, actually, most Negroes in the county don't want things to change. He said one of the council's aims is to get an "equal but separate" school system and to "work for the Negores' best interests."

"People who don't live here don't realize the problem we have," he said. "More than two-thirds of our people are Negroes. If all of them were given the vote, they'd take over."

Of the 24,500 people in Humphreys County, 17,000 are Negroes and 7,500 are whites.

One council leader said the aim is to make the council movement "not only Mississippi-wide and South-wide, but nationwide. By the time of the next presidential election, we hope to be in force."

Says It's Old Stuff

"These councils can't have much effect on the Negroes with any of that economic pressure," said Dr. Battle. "Ninety per cent of Mississippi's Negroes have lived under economic pressure all their lives. I remember lots of those days as a kid when I ate bread and molasses for breakfast and then molasses and bread for supper."

Dr. Battle got his medical training with scholarship funds provided by the state of Mississippi.

"I've heard some people don't want me here," he said. "Paradoxically, I'm required under terms of the scholarship to practice in a rural Mississippi area for five years."

He still has two years to go. He said he does not feel his position is without danger.

"A lot of times I get to feeling a little shaky, especially when I'm driving alone at night," he said.

Death Of Negro At Belzoni Has Become Disturbing Issue

By JAMES COOK
Staff Writer

BELZONI, Miss., May 21.—It was exactly two weeks ago that death came to Rev. George W. Lee, who was known throughout this section of the Delta not only as a preacher but as a surprisingly versatile jack-of-all-trades.

Today the sound of the name, George Lee, still is a troubling sound in the streets of Belzoni and out along the cotton rows of Humphreys Couny.

The Negro's death—no matter how it came, whether at the hands of white folks or Negroes, or by accident—was the death of a leader in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. That, with his violent death, coming when it did, made it an especially unsettling thing.

In Segregation Conflict

For many months now, the NAACP has been intensifying efforts to change the racially segregated way of things here. Lee had been one of the organization's two main leaders in Belzoni.

At the same time, the white property-owners and officials of Belzoni and Humphreys County—acting largely through their pro-segregationist Citizens Council—have been working harder than ever to "hold the color line."

There is no indication that the Citizens Council had anything at all to do with the Baptist minister's death on May 7. Council leaders say that causing a death not only would be morally indefensible but would harm the council as an organization.

But because of the recently strengthening antagonism between the council and the NAACP, it was expected that Lee's death would focus attention on their differences.

Had Discussed Council

Lee had spent about three hours of the afternoon before he was killed discussing the Citizens Council and its drive to keep Negroes away from the polls, said his wife, Rosebud Lee. Lee was talking in his grocery store with another Negro minister from out of town, and "he seemed badly worried," his wife said.

About 90 Negroes had managed in the last year to become qualified as registered voters in Humphreys County. The Citizens Council had been urging them to take their names off the list of voters, and had been bringing economic pressure to bear on them if they refused.

"They (some white leaders) told me that if they got me to go along with them, they could handle the others without any

go along with them, they could other minister.

Rosebud Lee told about the last night of her husband's life.

Smashed Into House

"He and some of our neighbor's had been watching the television all evening—he got in the habit because he liked the wrestling matches they used to have on Saturday nights. I'd been real sick lately, so I lay down early. About 11:30, he came in to see that I was all right—just stood there and looked at me a few minutes — then he locked up the store and went out."

Lee went to a Negro pressing shop downtown to get one of his suits. They hadn't pressed the lapels right, so he told them to keep it until next week. Then he started driving back toward home.

A few blocks along Church Street from the Courthouse Square was the weather-worn house occupied by Catherine Blair. A flower pot was knocked against her when Lee's car smashed into the front of the house.

She and her neighbors found Lee in the car, his jaw smashed. A Negro taxi took him to the Belzoni Hospital, but he died on the way.

Negro witnesses told Sheriff Ike J. Shelton that just before the crash a car had driven past Lee and that two noises like shotgun fire were heard. The sheriff said the witnesses' accounts in detail were mixed and confusing.

Found Pellets In Mouth

A few hours later, two Negro physicians—in the presence of the sheriff—found some small pellets lodged in Lee's mouth. Another pellet was found in a blown out left front tire, and small dents were found on the left front fender and hood. The Federal Bureau of Investigation last week said they were buckshot. The sheriff says he believes the ones found in Lee's mouth may be dental fillings and that the jaw could have been shattered by a house timber which crashed through the windshield.

"There was no evidence of wood or splinters," said one of the Negro physicians.

In two weeks, no suspects have been found. Some of the witnesses said the car that drove past was a convertible. Sheriff Shelton said he had called a state investigator into the case and had questioned some Negroes who have such cars, but no clues developed.

Lee's wife has been questioned by FBI agents who moved into the area. She said neither the sheriff nor other officers have visited her.

Rosebud and her plump, light complexioned husband had been married 18 years. They had no children.

Pastor of Three Churches

Lee came to Humphreys County as a child, attended high school and then began preaching. At death, he was pastor of three churches — Jackson, Lexington and Tchula.

Rosebud said their life had been comfortable, for in addition to earning money as a preacher and grocer, Lee ran a printing and photography business. Only once before—at least as far as her husband told her—was there any threat of violence. Someone tacked a note on the store's front door which contained curse words and a promise that he would be harmed if he didn't stop being so "smart."

"Rev. Lee told me not long ago, there might be bloodshed and some of it might be mine," Rosebud said. "But mostly he didn't tell me much. He always was cheerful. That Saturday morning he got up singing and humming some old hymn—I guess the way all ministers do."

Negroes from all around came to Humphreys County when they buried George Lee beside Green Grove Church.

Mississippi Race Issue

BELZONI, Miss., May 21 (AP) — The National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People today asked the U.S. Department of Justice to protect it at a meeting in Belzoni tomorrow where Negroes will protest handling of the unsolved death of a Negro minister and civil rights leader.

In Washington, the Justice Department asked the FBI to investigate the death. Arthur Caldwell, chief of the department's civil rights section, said he could not comment on the case until he saw the FBI report.

Local law enforcement has broken down in many places and federal aid is needed, the NAACP wired Atty. Gen. Herbert Brownell.

"In some sections of the state, the pretense of law enforcement officers to protect Negro citizens has collapsed since the advent of the white Citizens Council," the telegram said.

Citizens Councils are white groups organized to keep segregation in all walks of life.

Sheriff Ike Shelton said the Negroes would not be bothered unless they break the law. "If they don't violate any laws, it's o.k., but we haven't done anything wrong and we're not going to let them take the town."

The NAACP claims the Rev. George W. Lee was murdered because he tried to get Negroes to vote in Humphreys County, in the heart of the agricultural Delta where Negroes outnumber whites.

Shelton agreed the Baptist minister was slain by a shotgun blast, but said another Negro probably did it. The Rev. Lee was known as a "lady's man," the sheriff commented.

A coroner's jury could not decide what caused the minister's death.

Lee was found dying in his wrecked car which crashed into a house in Belzoni's Negro section. Officers first assumed the collision caused the fatal injuries.

Closer inspection showed some bits of metal around Lee's face. The FBI laboratory said they were "similar in weight and composition to No. 3 buckshot."

Masonic home lay on the floor during the height of the storm. No harm befell them but the milking barn and chicken house of the home were blown away, with only traces remaining.

Trees and utility poles were blown down, shutters and gutters torn from houses, windows and doors smashed and roads blocked over a wide area. Telephone and power service were knocked out.

No deaths or serious injuries were reported.

A meteorologist tentatively identified the disturbance as a severe thunderstorm but W.H. Miller, chief of the Macon Weather Bureau, later said it definitely was a tornado. Observers reported seeing a dark funnel - shaped cloud characteristic of tornadoes.

Wind velocity was estimated at 75 miles an hour or greater.

cupants of a Masonic children's home were endangered by a tornado today at this middle Georgia city.

The residence destroyed was that of Albert Fausett in an exclusive area. Members of the family were away on vacation and escaped injury.

The frightened children at the

Ala. Kidnapping, Detroit Mob Give Impetus to Bigots

By GEORGE PITTS
(Courier Staff Writer)

Bitter race violence, festering throughout the nation like a malignant wound, sounded a grim aftermath to the Emmett Louis Till lynch-murder in Money, Miss.

United Steelworkers President David J. McDonald urged Mississippi Gov. Hugh White to "use every means at your disposal to bring about quick conviction and punishment" to those guilty. McDonald wired Mrs. Mamie E. Bradley, the slain boy's mother, that the union would "do everything in its power" to see that justice is done.

As the eyes of the country focused on the upcoming Till trial other outbreaks were reported.

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In Monroe, La., John Warren, 40, was in serious condition after being shot in the back by white farmer, Harry Burton. After going to police headquarters to surrender, Burton suffered a serious heart attack. Neither man was in condition to talk about the shooting.

Meanwhile, in Detroit, a cowardly white mob, for the second straight week hurled vile racial epithets and stones at another Negro family seeking to move into a predominantly white neighborhood. Mr. and Mrs. William Mayers and their five children were spirited out of their home by police as hostile whites lurked nearby.

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River Rouge, in the shadows of Detroit, came in for its share of shameful conduct, too. Six Negro children were refused admittance to lily-white Dunn Elementary School apparently for no reason. Dr. S. W. Johnson, dentist, only Negro member of the school board, charged racial prejudice and that no one at an "unofficial" meeting commented on the charges.

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The FBI is conducting an investigation into the case of a Negro who was kidnapped and beaten by three white men in a mistaken identity farce, in Carrollton, Ala. Mutt Jones, 21, was dragged into a car by three men and beaten. One of the men's father, allegedly backjacked the night before, is said by Jones to have realized they had the wrong man. "They got real scared then and bought Jones $1 worth of beer, and then they brought him home and told him if he told anyone . . . they would come back and kill him," Sheriff R. R. Shields said.

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In Brookhaven, Miss., there seems to be no hurry to see that justice is done in the slaying of Lamar Smith, well-known Negro civic and political leader. The grand jury recessed for a week without returning indictments against Noah Smith, Mack Smith and Charles Falvey, white farmers charged with the killing.

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John Dobron, white, was convicted and paid a $100 fine in Milwaukee for chasing a Negro family from a small island with a gun. Lavell Tyler testified that he, his wife and her mother were told to get off the island at gunpoint by Dohorn, a union steward, who told them "I don't want any n——s here."

A new twist occurred in New Albany, Miss., when a white man accused three Negroes of beating and robbing him. Roosevelt Rhea, 39, said two women and a man, all Negroes, hit him with a bottle, stole his wallet and his car.

The Department of Justice and the NAACP, in separate attempts to halt the disturbances, have launched extensive investigations into the reign of terror against Negroes in Mississippi.

— BIGGEST and the BEST —

Police on Guard

Sumner Jammed For Trial



Roy Bryant J. W. Milam

By ROBERT M. RATCLIFFE
(National News Editor)

SUMNER, Miss. — Hundreds of Negroes and whites poured into this little country town early Monday morning to witness the trial of two white half-brothers, Roy Bryant, 24-year-old storekeeper of Money, Miss., and J. W. Milam, 36, of Glendora, Miss., both charged with the brutal kidnap-lynching of a 14-year-old Chicago boy, Emmett Till.

Who Has It?

Emmett's Ring Is Missing

By GEORGE F. BROWN
(Courier Chicago Editor)

CHICAGO—Who took lynch victim Emmett Till's ring, which the fourteen-year-old lad was wearing when he was mauled and shot to death in a fiendish hate-killing near the backwoods town of Money, Miss.?

Is it being held as evidence to be introduced at the trial?

This ring is vital to the Emmett Till case.

The ring sent to Mrs. Bradley (mem. 1ND) by the United States Army after her husband, Louis Till, died in Europe, bears the initials "L. T." and the date "1943."

Emmett's father requested that the ring be given to the boy.

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EMMETT ALWAYS wore the ring, but when his battered body was fished out of Tallahatchie River, the ring was reported to have been removed from his finger by a deputy of LeFlore County Sheriff George W. Smith.

Mrs. Mamie Bradley, the boy's mother, is positive that Emmett was wearing the ring when he left Chicago on his ill-fated vacation trip to visit his uncle, Mose Wright.

Mrs. Bradley's attorney, famed civil rights lawyer, William Henry Huff of Chicago, specifically asked Atty. Gen. J. P. Coleman in Jackson, Miss., to "ascertain who now has the ring—the sheriff or the deputy . . . allegedly seen to take from the dead boy's finger when the boy was

Mamie Bradley, mother of the lynched boy, flew down from Chicago late Sunday night and racial demonstrations.

Plump and dimpled Mrs. arrived at the Memphis airport at 2:30 A. M. Monday.

SHE WAS then motored to Mound Bayou, Miss., where she is the house guest of Dr. and Mrs. T. R. M. Howard. Mrs. Bradley was invited by the State of Mississippi to appear as a witness and was promised any protection she thinks she needs.

Many of the Negro newsmen, NAACP representatives and out-of-town attorneys here for the trial are taking their meals and sleeping in the all-Negro town of Mound Bayou and in nearby Clarksdale. Sumner is less than fifty miles from Mound Bayou.

Negroes here for the trial are resented by some of the local whites, but no hostilities and clashes are expected.

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BIG PROBLEM here is seating space in the second-floor courtroom. The courtroom only seats 260 people and the jurors, 160 of them, are taking up most of this space.

A law official here said there will be very few seats left for colored or white. There is no "Negro balcony" in the courtroom.

The two suspects are being represented by five Mississippi lawyers who are being paid from money now being raised in the state for Bryant and Milam.

Defense attorneys said Monday morning that they expect the trial to be over in three days. State prosecutors believe the trial will be over in two days.

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SUMNER IS A small town with a population of less than 500. The town has a fair-sized Negro population, most of them living on the fringe areas and employed as domestics and sharecroppers.

There are no Negroes listed among the 160 jurors. Twelve trial jurors are being chosen from this list of 160.

Leading Negroes in the Delta advanced the opinion that Bryant and Milan will not be convicted for murder. "If they are convicted at all, they will not get over ten years," said one spokesman.

General belief is that an all-white jury will not convict the two men.

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BRYANT AND MILAM will be tried for murder first. The defense is expected to contend that 14-year-old Emmett Till was not killed in Tallahatchie County.

The county seat of this county is Sumner, scene of the current trial. It is up to the states to prove that the murder-lynching did take place in this county.

The state will use the testimony of Mrs. Bradley to prove that the lynch-victim's body, fished from the Tallahatchie River, was her son's body. Defense attorneys are going to insist that the body finshed from the river was not Emmett Till's body.

The defense also may insist that the kidnapping trial be held in LeFlore County where Till was vacationing with his uncle, the Rev. Moses Wright, when Bryant and Milan snatched him from his bed.

• • •

THE NATION'S leading magazines, wire services, dailies and weeklies sent an army of reporters and photographers here for the trial.

One of the first witnesses to arrive here Monday morning was the Rev. Mr. Wright, the lynched boy's uncle and a Holiness preacher. Obviously afraid, the Rev. Mr. Wright stayed away from the crowd and talked very little. He spoke to Mrs. Bradley but walked away when she broke into tears.

Wright is one of the chief witnesses to the kidnapping. He permitted Bryant and Milan to enter his house and take Till who had been accused of waving and whistling at Bryant's wife in the Bryant's country store in Money, Miss.

AT THAT TIME, the Rev. Mr. Wright begged the two men to give Till a "good whipping" and let him go.

Till's body was found several days later in the Tallahatchie River, bullets in his head, his face mutilated and a heavy cotton gin fan weighted around his neck.

This new charge on the [illegible] Mississippi prompted law officials to go through the movements of staging what looks like a real trial. A former [illegible] man, Atty. Robert B. [illegible] is aiding the state in the prosecution of the half-brothers.

— BIGGEST and the BEST —

Courier Editorials

Is Mississippi Dead?

MISSISSIPPI, which H. L. Mencken once dubbed "the worst American state," is in the national spotlight this week as the trial opens of the half-brothers, Roy Bryant and J. D. Milam for the kidnap-murder of 14-year-old Chicagoan, Emmett Till.

Will justice prevail and these two fiends be found guilty and sentenced to death?

The outcome of this case will determine whether Mississippi is already dead or whether there is hope for revival and improvement.

There have always been some good people in Mississippi, and for a time, during and after the war, it looked as if decency, justice and humanitarianism might have a chance in that state, but latterly it has seemed that the chance was slim.

If Mississippi is already dead to decency and fair play, it will be a great challenge to the rest of America to attempt a resurrection.

Destiny Story Related

Mississippi Trial Starts Today

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 18 (AP)—By the scant margin of five minutes, 14-year-old Emmett (Bo-Bo) Till kept a rendezvous with destiny last month.

Tomorrow his date with death is scheduled to erupt into the Mississippi Delta's most wiedely publicized court trial in years.

Young Till, a South Side Chicago Negro, was kidnaped from the unpainted cottonfield shack of his great-uncle Aug. 28. Three days earlier, he had allegedly made offensive remarks and "wolf-whistled" at a pretty brunette wife of a country storekeeper in nearby Money, Miss.

It is a tiny crossroads settlement of five stores, one gas station, a weathered one-story post office and a cotton gin.

The storekeeper, Roy Bryant, 24, and his half-brother, J. W. Milam, 35, go on trial at 9 a.m. Monday. They are charged with murdering young Till and legally they will be on trial for their lives. Till's body, nude, weighted and shot, was taken Aug. 31 out of the Tallahatchie River, a chocolate-brown stream that meanders through the Delta country, east of the Mississippi River.

Both men have pleaded innocent. Authorities say they have admitted taking the Till boy from the house but they insist they released him unharmed. The trial is expected to last only a few days.

The dead boy's great-uncle, Mo Wright, told reporters today how young Till nearly missed the train that brought him to Money and to his death.

Wright, visiting in Chicago last August, agreed to bring the boy back with him for a two-week vacation. Wright boarded an Illinois Central train at Chicago's 12th Street Station. The Till boy caught the same train by arrangement at the 63rd Street Station.

Almost Got Left.

"He like to got left," Wright recalled. "If he'd been five minutes later he'd have missed it."

Wright, the state's prospective star witness in the trial, is a lean man of medium height. He looks younger than his 64 years. In faded blue trousers held by yellow straps and in a khaki shirt, he was napping on the front porch swing of his six-room shack when reporters aroused him today.

In his stocking feet, the Delta-born Negro sharecropper recalled in vivid detail the arrival of the Till boy's kidnapers at 2:30 a.m. the morning of Aug. 28.

He said the men pounded on the door of his shack, and called for him by the nickname, "Preacher," which carries no particular significance.

"Who is that?" Wright answered.

He claims one of the men at the door identified himself as one of the defendants and demanded to "talk to you and the boy."

Wright said he went to the door and was confronted by three men, one of the men with a pistol in one hand and a flashlight in the other.

"Ain't you got two boys here from Chicago?" Wright quoted the men as demanding. Besides Till, Wright's grandson also was visiting him from Chicago at the time.

"Yes sir, I sure have," was Wright's reply.

"I want that boy that did the talk at Money," one of the men reportedly declared.

Wright said he heard of the incident in which his nephew made the "ugly remarks" to Mrs. Bryant and climaxed them with a wolf-whistle. The sharecropper said he asked the man not to take the boy out of the shack, and that his wife offered the intruders money if they would leave.

Speech Defect.

"This boy ain't got good sense," Wright said he pleaded. Actually, he regarded the Till boy as normally intelligent but the boy stuttered and Wright based his plea on this speech defect.

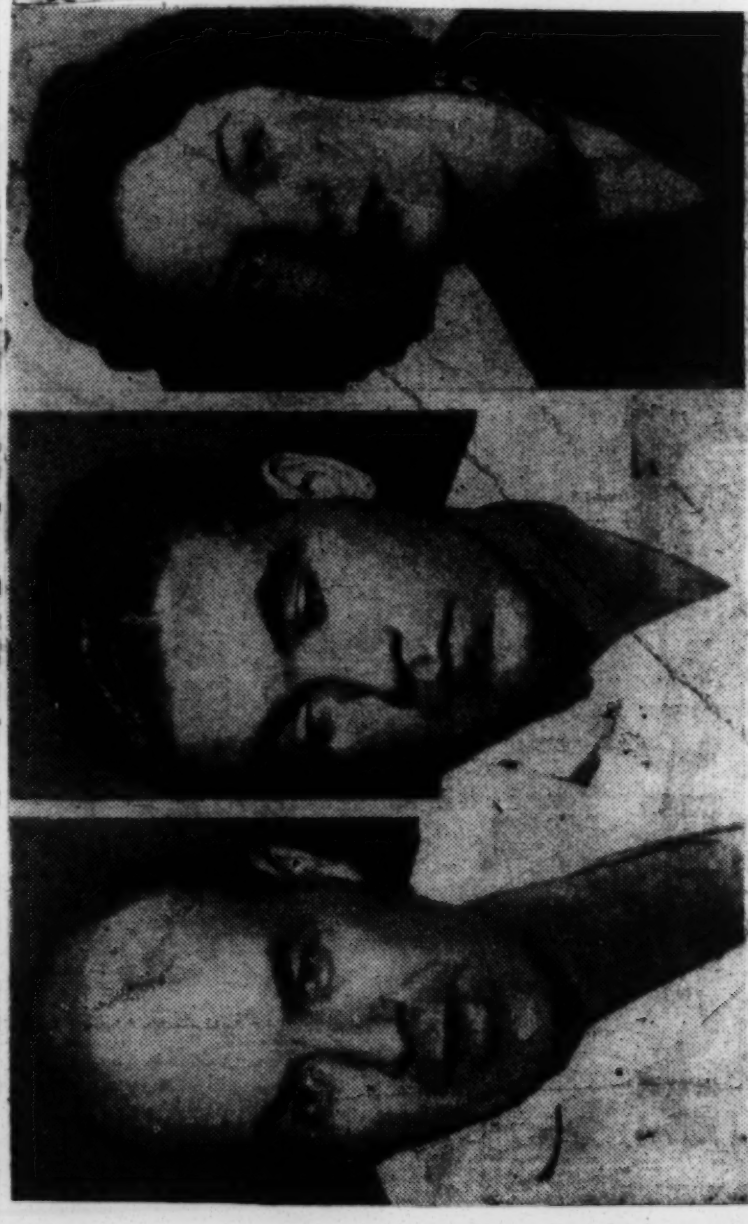
"If this is not the right boy," Wright said the men assured him, "we gonna bring him back and put him in the bed."

Wright claimed, after the men roused the Till boy from sleep and took him outside, he heard the men talk to a fourth person in a car and ask if this was "the right boy." The answering voice assured the men he was.

Wright thinks it was a woman's voice but he says he isn't sure. The state is expected to try to prove the woman in the car was Mrs. Bryant, a 27-year-old Mississippi-born girl with dark good looks inherited from Italian-born ancestors. She is the mother of two young boys.

As far as the state has revealed, nobody but the slayers saw young Till again until his body was fished from the Tallahatchie River about 15 miles from Money on Aug. 31. The body bore a bullet wound and disfiguring marks on the head. It was weighted with a 100-pound cotton gin exhaust fan which had failed to keep it on the bottom.

Although Mose Wright mentioned three men, only two have been indicted for the slaying. Technically, both men can draw the death penalty in Mississppi's gas chamber if convicted. Rarely, if ever, has Mississippi put a white man to death for the slaying of a Negro.



PRINCIPALS IN SLAYING TRIAL—J. W. Milam, 35 (left), and his half brother, Roy Bryant, 24 (center), go on trial at Sumner, Miss. today on charges of slaying a Negro boy who allegedly whistled at Bryant's wife (right). (AP Wirephoto.)

8806

River Yields Body Of Negro, 14, After Insult To White Woman

Advertiser

GREENWOOD, Miss., Aug. 31 (AP)—The weighted body of a 14-year-old Negro boy, kidnaped three days ago because he made "ugly remarks" to a white woman, was pulled from the Tallahatchie River today. Thurs, 9-1-55

Emmitt Louis Till, Chicago boy visiting his uncle at nearby Money, died of a bullet wound above the right ear. P. 1A

White Men Charged

Sheriff George Smith of Leflore County said two white men already charged with kidnaping would be charged with murder. They are Roy Bryant, Money storekeeper, and his half-brother, J. W. Milam of Glendora.

Sheriff Smith said Bryant admitted taking the boy from his uncle's home but said Till was released unharmed.

Till's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley of Chicago, sobbed:

"Someone is going to pay for this. The entire State of Mississippi is going to pay for this.

"I can't think; I just can't think. I'm frozen.

"He didn't do anything to deserve that."

The National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People said Till's death looks like a lynching and demanded vigorous prosecution.

Till was visiting his uncle, tenant farmer Mose Wright, when he was kidnaped Sunday morning. A deputy sheriff said Till "must have been killed Sunday, shortly after the kidnaping."

Till was buried this afternoon at Money. His body was in "such bad shape it couldn't be shipped" to Chicago for burial, a funeral home attendant said.

The youth allegedly made "ugly remarks" to Mrs. Bryant, the storekeeper's wife, last week. He was kidnaped early Sunday.

A teen-agd boy, fishing in the Tallahatchie River spotted Till's body caught in a drift. His feet and legs stuck above the water.

Sheriff H.C. Strider of Tallahatchie County said, "We went down and found the body hung in a drift. We kept working around and finally released it and pulled it to the bank.

"We found a bullet hole one inch above his right ear. The left side of his face had been cut up or beat up—plumb into the skull."

The body was found in Tallahatchie County. The kidnaping happened in adjoining Leflore County.

FBI Studying Case

The site was on Pecan Point of the river, about 12 miles north of Money and 25 miles north of Greenwood.

The FBI in Washington said it was keeping in contact with Sheriff Smith but had not taken part in the case since there was no showing of a federal law violation.

The FBI could enter the case if there were evidence of violation of civil rights laws or if the kidnaping involved crossing a state line.

Murder and kidnaping carry a maximum penalty of death in Mississippi's gas chamber.

Till went to Bryant's Store Saturday night with several other Negro youths. He entered the store and allegedly made some obscene remark to Mrs. Bryant. Officials said they do not know what the remark was.

Another Negro boy entered the store and brought out Till.

Early Sunday, two white men and a woman drove to the Wright home and asked for the "boy from Chicago." The men entered the house and returned with Till. The woman remained in the automobile.

Wright asked where they were taking his nephew. "Nowhere if he's not the right one," one of the men answered. They took Till to the car and asked the woman if Till were the right boy. She said he was and the men placed him in the car and they drove away.

Sheriff Smith said he thought earlier three men were involved but now is satisfied there were only two. He is continuing his search for the woman but said his chances seem slim since Wright did not see her.

Gov. White Orders Trial In Boy's Kidnap-Slaying

Constitution P2
Atlanta, Ga.

GREENWOOD, Miss., Sept. 1 (UP)—Gov. Hugh White ordered local officials today to "fully prosecute" two white men for the abduction-slaying of a Chicago Negro teen-ager who allegedly leered and whistled at the wife of one of the suspects.

White told the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People that Mississippi in no way condones the slaying of 15-year-old Emmett Till. He instructed authorities here to "press the case" against storekeeper Roy Bryant and his half-brother, J. W. Milam.

Dist. Atty. Gerald Chatham of Tallahatchie County said he would ask a grand jury early next week to indict Bryant and Milam for murder.

Thurs 9-2-55

DENY SLAYING

They admitted taking the boy from the home of his uncle in the Money community north of here early Sunday, but denied stripping and shooting him and throwing his body in the Tallahatchie River.

The boy's nude body was found by a fisherman Wednesday, his neck tied to a piece of cotton gin machinery but his feet floating above surface.

In Jackson, Gov. White called a press conference to read a telegram he sent to Roy Wilkins, NAACP executive secretary, who had asked White to intervene.

"The parties charged with the murder are in jail," White messaged Wilkins. "I have every reason to believe that the courts will do their duty in prosecution. Mississippi does not condone such conduct."

GLAD AT TELEGRAM

Wilkins said in New York he was "very glad" White ordered the prosecution.

Chatham said he would file no formal charge of murder.

"They are held in Leflore County jail on a kidnaping charge," Chatham said, "and since the grand jury meets early next week there is no need to file a murder charge. But from the information I now have, I will ask the grand jury for a murder indictment."

Chatham said Till was kidnaped in Leflore County but apparently was murdered in neighboring Tallahatchie County. The body was believed dumped from a bridge about 10 miles from the home of Till's uncle, Moses Wright, 64, a part-time preacher.

Wright said when the men took Till from his bed he thought they would "give Emmett a beating" and turn him loose.

"They told me I wouldn't live to be 65 if I remembered their faces and told anybody," he added.

Maurice Wright, 16, Till's second cousin, told United Press that Emmett gave a "wolf call" to Bryant's wife at the Bryant store Saturday night.

About 2:30 a.m. Sunday two men walked into the six-room frame tenant house, one armed with a pistol and the other carrying a flashlight.

AWOKE BOY

"They asked where the boy from Chicago was . . . shook Emmett awake and ordered him to go with them," Maurice said.

The uncle rushed to a nearby house and called law officers when the abductors left, he said.

Emmett, a ninth-grade student in Chicago, had been visiting Wright for a week. He was to have returned home this weekend.

"He was helping us pick cotton but he didn't like it," Maurice said.

"He only made $4 the whole week."

A Lynch-Murder Aids Enemies of the South

Constitution
Atlanta, Ga.

The body of a 14-year-old Negro boy has been taken from a river near Greenwood, Miss. He had been shot. The weighted body then had been thrown into the river. Fri, 9-2-55

Once again the South has been rubber-stamped with a lynch-murder. The victim was a helpless child. His offense reportedly was that some days before his kidnaping and disappearance he had "wolf-whistled" when a lady passed by. If such were the case, juvenile courts or regular legal procedures were in effect to cover any offense. P4

The brutal murder is grist in the mill of those who picture all the South as a region of violence. It assists the Communist propagandists. It delivers us into the hands of our enemies. Unless the officials of Mississippi vigorously follow up this murder and bring the guilty to justice, all of us will be smeared by it.

In this critical period in the South's effort to adjust itself to the rest of the nation, we cannot continue to trample out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored without paying the price in the years ahead.

Murder In Mississippi

Advertiser P2-B
Montgomery, Ala.

The killing of the 14-year-old Chicago Negro in Mississippi was murder of the most heinous, depraved kind. We trust the state will move with speed and vigor to convict the guilty.

No violation of social taboos should even be considered in extenuation of a crime so horrible. Justice will be satisfied by nothing less than the maximum penalty. Sun 9-4-55

Puzzling Kidnap-Slaying Case Before The Grand Jury Today

C. Appeal

By WILLIAM SORRELS
Staff Writer

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 4.—The puzzling kidnap-slaying case of Emmett L. Till, 14-year-old Chicago Negro, is scheduled to be placed before the Tallahatchie County Grand Jury convening here Monday.

Mon. 9-5-55

Dist. Atty. Gerald Chatham of Hernando said Sunday the Grand Jury will begin its session Monday, but may not report its findings before Tuesday.

P. 1

Mr. Chatham said he would confer with Tallahatchie County officers before the Grand Jury session about new developments in the case. These include a statement issued Saturday by Sheriff H. C. Strider expressing doubt that the body of a Negro youth found Wednesday in the Tallahatchie River was that of Till.

Memphis

Conflicting Views

Officers said it is possible that Grand Jury action in the case might be postponed until positive identification is established. The Grand Jury here will consider only the slaying angle in the case.

Jailed at Greenwood on kidnap charges are Roy Bryant, 24-year-old Money, Miss., storekeeper, and his half-brother J. W. Milam of Glendora, Miss.

Conflicting views have been expressed about the identity of the body.

Questions Identification

Sheriff Strider said he doesn't believe the body recovered was that of Till, whose Negro companions said entered the Bryant store and "whistled" and made remarks to Mrs. Bryant, an attractive young mother.

In Leflore County, Sheriff George Smith said, "I thought the body had been positively identified."

No request has been made for the return of the body from Chicago officers said Sunday night. The victim had been shot in the head. Officials said no autopsy was made.

Com. Appeal

Ring Shown

Mose Wright, an uncle of Till, said the boy wore a ring. Deputy Sheriff John Ed Cothran of Greenwood showed a ring taken from the victim's finger to newsmen Sunday. It had the initials, "L. T." A date also was inscribed: "May 25, 1943."

Maurice Wright, 16-year-old cousin of the youth, said Till told him the ring used to be his father's. He said his name was Louis Till, who was killed in World War II.

P. 3

Other developments Sunday included the retaining of legal counsel for the accused half-brothers. Five Sumner attorneys, J. J. 'Si' Breland, John W. Whittan Jr., C. Sidney Carlton, Harvey Henderson and J. W. Kellum form the legal battery.

They said they do not plan to talk to Bryant and Milam until after the Grand Jury acts.

Sheriff Smith said what appeared to be patches of blood and hair, found on a bridge about five miles north of where the body was pulled from the water, would be turned over to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for laboratory tests.

'Ran From Car'

"I believe it's possible the body was thrown into the water from the bridge," said Sheriff Strider.

The victim was tied to a heavy cotton gin fan, weighing about 100 pounds. His neck was tied to the fan with barbed wire.

The body was badly decomposed.

Maurice Wright said Sunday he and seven other Negroes, including a girl whom Till "was trying to court" were joy-riding in Mose Wright's car the night the incident happened at the store Aug. 24.

Young Wright said the group expected trouble after Till went into the store "to buy five pieces of bubble gum."

"We drove to the church (near the Wright home) and stopped," he said. "When we saw two cars coming we jumped out. We ran and got behind trees."

He said they returned to the car after it was noted the approaching drivers were Negroes.

Maurice Wright said the youths sat in the car and talked about the incident.

'Was Turned Loose'

There has been no report on the conversation in the store. Mrs. Bryant, who was in the store with two small sons, has been unavailable for comment.

The youn Negroes said that after trouble developed in the store Albert Johnson Jr., a 20-year-old Schlater, Miss., Negro went inside, grabbed Till by the shoulder and made him come out.

"Mama made us promise not to take him (Till) to town," Maurice said, "but we went down."

The Till youth, visiting from Chicago, was said to have a speech impediment. He was taken from the Wright home three days after the store incident.

NEGROES PROTECT TWO IN TILL CASE

P-56

Act to Safeguard Pair Said to Have Seen Youth in Hands of Abductors

Times

JACKSON, Miss., Oct. 1 (AP)—Two Negroes, reported to have seen a Chicago Negro boy in the hands of kidnappers, have been removed from Mississippi by other Negroes, a Negro leader said today.

Com. 10-2-55

The Negro, who asked to remain anonymous, identified the two as Leroy Collins and Henry Lee Loggin.

The informant said the two were remaining out of the state for "safekeeping."

Mr. Collins, a plantation hand, and Mr. Loggin, a sleeping car porter, had been reported missing by Phillip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Railroad Sleeping Car Porters, A. F. L., in New York yesterday.

The Mississippi Negro leader said, however, that Mr. Collins had been sent to Chicago two days ago and that Mr. Loggin had stayed in St. Louis after being advised by Mississippi Negro friends.

Two Were Acquitted

This was the latest development in the case of Emmett Louis Till, 14 years old. Two white men, Roy Bryant, 24, and his half-brother, John W. Milam, 36, were acquitted last week of a charge of murdering young Till, principally on a point of identification.

A Tallahatchie County jury said the state had failed to convince it that a body taken from the Tallahatchie River three days after young Till's disappearance was that of the boy.

The youth's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley of Chicago, and his great-uncle, Mose Wright, identified the body as that of young Till. It was so buried in Chicago after thousands streamed past the casket. The boy had been visiting Mr. Wright, a sharecropper, when he was taken away by two men.

Neither Mr. Collins nor Mr. Loggin testified during the Till trial. State attorneys said outside of court they had tried unsuccessfully to find the two.

Charged With Kidnapping

Still charged with young Till's kidnapping, Mr. Bryant and Mr. Milam each posted $10,000 bonds yesterday and went free to await action of the grand jury in nearby Leflore County.

During the murder trial witnesses testified the body taken form the river had appeared to be that of a mature man. They said it had been in the river longer than the three days young Till had been missing.

The Mississippi Negro leader said today that the body buried as young Till would be exhumed. He said Chicago physicians would attempt to establish the victim's age.

Whatever the outcome of the exhumation, if it is made, neither Mr. Bryant nor Mr. Milan can again be tried for young Till's murder, the state attorney general's office said.

'Witness' in Care of Negro Paper

Times-Picayune

CHICAGO, Oct. 3 (AP)—A man reported to be a potential witness who never appeared at the Mississippi trial of two white men acquitted of murdering a Chicago Negro boy is said to be in the care of a Negro newspaper.

Times-Picayune 10-4-55

Enoch Waters, executive director of the Chicago Defender, said Sunday Leroy (Too Tight) Collins, had been brought to Chicago by a reporter for the Tri-State Defender of Memphis, Tenn.

P. 35

Waters said the reporter located Collins in Mississippi. Collins, a Negro, disappeared before the trial of Roy Bryant, 24, and his half-brother J. W. Milam.

Milam and Bryant were acquitted of murdering 14-year-old Emmett Louis Till. They are awaiting trial on charges of kidnaping the boy.

New Orleans

Collins is being interviewed by attorneys, Waters said, but he did not identify the attorneys or say where Collins is staying in Chicago. He said he will notify newsmen if Collins decides to make a statement.

The editor said another Negro man described as a missing potential witness, Henry Lee Loggin, is now in Glendora, Miss.

COLLINS DISCLAIMS KNOWLEDGE OF TILL

Commercial

Negro Denies Rumors He Witnessed Slaying

Appeal

ALIBIS ARE ESTABLISHED

Wed. 10-5-55

By The Associated Press

CHICAGO, Oct. 4.—A Chicago Negro newspaper reported Tuesday that a 22-year-old Negro identified as a potential witness in the Emmett L. Till case denies he had any knowledge of the case.

P. 28

The Chicago Defender said Levy Collins of Money, Miss., "established alibis" for himself and Harry Loggins, 24, also of Money, during the time Till disappeared.

Memphis

Rumors emanating from the trial in Sumner, Miss., of Roy Bryant, 24, and J. W. Milam, 36, who were acquitted of slaying Till, had it that Collins and Loggins might be eyewitnesses to the killing.

But Collins denied this, the Defender said, and insisted he and Loggins were in Greenwood, Miss., visiting some girls at the time young Till was taken from his uncle's home near Money, Miss.

A body, with a heavy weight attached to it, later was fished out of the Tallahatchie River. Till's mother said it was that of her son.

Collins came to Chicago from Mississippi last week. The Defender said he isreturning to Mississippi.

Till's Uncle Says He Fled For Life After Trial

NEW YORK, Oct. 4.—(AP)—The New York Post said Tuesday that Mose Wright, uncle of Emmett L. Till, told the newspaper that he had to flee for his life after the trial of two white men acquitted of the slaying.

The Post said Wright, now in Chicago, told of a midnight visit to his cabin by three carloads of white men the night after the trial ended.

Wire 10-5-55

Wright said he and his sons hid in the bushes as the men called to him to come out of his house and then "ransacked the place" when they didn't get an answer, the Post said.

Memphis

At Money, Miss., G. C. Frederick, owner of the plantation on which Wright lived, said "this is the first I've heard of it."

Mr. Frederick said Wright did not mention and such incident to him and said he doesn't believe it happened.

Leflore County Sheriff George Smith, who saw Wright the day of his departure from Mississippi, described the 64-year-old sharecropper as "calm and without a worry in the world."

Sumner Cotton Town Of 700 Inhabitants

Call Jackson City, Miss
Ed 9-23-55

By ROBERT H. DENLEY

SUMNER, Miss.—(INS)— Sumner, where two white men went on trial Monday for the murder of a Negro teen-ager is a town of 700, by cotton surrounded and by cotton sustained.

Joseph Burton Sumner with his wife and six children arrived from Alabama to clear the townsite in 1872. By the 1900's he had in operation the town's first business, a cotton gin.

And a cotton gin, on the town's northern edge, still is the main business in season.

Symbolically it was a cotton gin fan that was used to weigh down the body of 14-year old Emmett Louis Till for whose murder the two men were indicted. To the south of town there are cotton fields. To the east is Cassity Bayou, a 170-mile long body of water.

Along its bluffs are the town's choice homesites, big houses, small ones, old ones and modern, stand side by side under Oak trees that shade completely the black-topped streets.

On Beale Street

Cotton planters in the Mississippi Delta customarily live these days in towns such as Sumner. A block from the bayou is a short street, called informally "Beale Street." Here, closely packed are the cafes and juke joints that cater to Negroes only.

In cotton-picking time Saturday night is the big night for all the "Beale Street's" in the Delta country. There was no exception the Saturday night before the trial that has brought Sumner more public attention than ever before in town history.

Younger Negroes danced to the rowdy rock of the juke boxes while others drank beer or played the gambling card game "Skin" in the back room.

Call 14

If there was any racial tension in Sumner, it could not be discerned on Beale street. Nor has any been noticed one block away on courthouse square as the trial hour approached. Here are ranged grocery stores, drug stores, the bank, offices of doctors and lawyers, a garage, farm machinery dealers, the weekly newspaper.

They form a three-sided square facing the two-story, cream brick courthouse where Roy Bryant and his half-brother J. W. Milam will be tried for the Till murder.

The square, towered courthouse furnishes quarters for the town library, the sheriff's office, the court clerk, county supervisor and tax officials. On the second floor is the high-ceilinged green-walled court room. Extra cane bottomed chairs have been crowded in to increase the seating capacity to 200.

Jackson City, Miss

At the northeast corner of the courthouse grounds is a monument to the soldiers of the Confederacy. At the northwest, a giant Oak tree gives shade to loungers.

On the courthouse bulletin board are recruiting posters for the various armed services, notices concerning such legal matters as foreclosures and wills and an accounting of the budget of the town of Sumner for the past fiscal year. The record shows that fines collected for law violations for the 12 months period totaled $62.

From the northwest corner of the courthouse one could sail a hat to the railroad tracks now used for freight only. A quarter of a mile to the west is Highway 49-E, knifing southward through the rich Delta country.

The highway is life for Sumner, a trading town. The road's edges now are lined with white fluffs of cotton fallen from the wagons, cars and trucks moving to the gin.

The highway is a way-of-life for Delta residents, proud of their reputation for "going"—thirty miles to a movie, fifty miles to a restaurant or 100 miles to shop in Memphis to the north.

And the highway leading northward is a symbol of the migratory trend of southern Negroes.

As one Delta farmer, Edward Everett, put it:

"Our Negroes in the last decade have come and gone. Some stay north forever, others come back regularly to visit, some come back to live."

The Till youth was of the Chicago part of a Delta tenant farm family. He was visiting in the South when he was kidnaped and slain, allegedly for insulting a white woman.

His relatives say, in effect, he was a northern-raised boy who didn't know the ways of the South.

Slain Boy's Mother Makes Dramatic Entrance In Court

Call 14
Jackson City, Miss

Michigan Congressman and Aides To Trial

By JAMES HICKS

Ed 9-23-55

SUMNER, Miss. — Mrs. Mamie Bradley, mother of Emmett Till made a dramatic entry into the courtroom Tuesday announced that she was here to stay, "just as long as I'm useful." She was immediately given a subpoena by Sheriff Strider, which she accepted gracefully and then took a seat at the Jim Crow press table.

Mrs. Bradley was accompanied here by her father, J. N. Carthan of Detroit and her cousin, Nayfield Mooty of Chicago, president of CIO steelworkers union No. 3911.

Attired in a smooth charcoal grey shantung dress, with a white collar, underwhich was a black bow tie, the attractive young mother provided the greatest commotion of the trial thus far, merely by her appearance.

Fanning herself with a beautiful black Japanese fan, she answered the barrage of questions newsmen fired at her.

Treated Royally

She said she had been treated royally, the few minutes she has been here—that she flew to Memphis and drove overland the remainder of the trip.

Ring Is Missing

She further said, she does not have her son's ring in her possession and that the ring was not on the body when it arrived at Chicago.

She also said that she has received over 2000 letters, but the newsstories were erroneous, which said most of the letters were unfavorable.

She was asked if she felt the body found in the river was that of her son. She quickly replied, "If I hadn't been sure that that was my boy, I'd be down here right now looking for him."

After accepting the subpoena, Mrs. Bradley sat down at the Negro press table and showed a keen interest in the selection of the last juror, which was going on when she arrived.

As various members were disqualified, she turned to this writer and said, "How many more do they need". When I told her that they only needed one but were disqualifying many because they had contributed to the defense fund of the two accused white men, her face clouded and she turned away.

Mrs. Bradley wore pin curls, a black velvet hat and rhinestone earrings. Her shoes were black pumps.

The final juror was selected at 10:10 a.m.

Mrs. Bradley was not escorted by any officials or law enforcement officers when she arrived here.

Less than five minutes after Mrs. Bradley entered, and during the brief recess taken as the last juror was selected, Congressman Charles C. Diggs of Michigan, arrived with two aides, Attorney Basil Brown and James Del Rio.

Since Congressman Diggs arrived during the time the new jury was to march in, the deputy on the courthouse door barred everyone from entering due to the expected movement of the jury.

As he stood outside with others, a photographer, Ernest Withers of Memphis, tipped the Negro press table that Diggs was outside.

This reporter went out and found the congressman at the door. Del Rio explained the situation, saying they could not get in and asked the writer if he could get back in. When I answered yes, he handed me one of Congressman Diggs' calling cards and asked if I would take it in to the judge who was off the bench during the short recess.

I got the card in Judge Swango's hand by relaying it through R. B. Smith, specially assigned prosecutor.

The judge immediately paged the sheriff and sent him out to escort Diggs and his part in.

Meanwhile, the sheriff, in passing the Negro press table, told me that "you folks will have to make room for him at your table."

Congressman Diggs was then brought in. Three Negro photographers yielded their seats, and the nation's third ranking Negro congressman sat down at a Jim Crow press table.

This is the line up as I sit here and write this in longhand at our press table. I am seated at the head of an eight foot table facing away from the judge. I face away from what is actually happening in the court and in order to see the judge I must look over my left shoulder. Down the table on my left sits Mrs. Bradley, mother of a boy brutally murdered. Next to her is her father and four other reporters crowding the left side of the table down the wall.

At the other end, directly facing me sits Mrs. Nannie Mitchell Turner, elderly publisher of the St. Louis Argus. Then coming up the right side of the table, (my right) sits Congressman Diggs and his party and as many newsmen that can line up on one side of an eight foot table.

To the rear of the room, in another Jim Crow section stands the aging 64 year old Rev. Moses Wright, the state's chief witness in the trial. He has not had a seat all morning.

Downstairs the only drinking fountain says "white only." This was the scene as the actual case began.

Search For Two Who May Have Seen Till Murder

Call 14
Jackson City, Miss
Ed 9-23-55

By JAMES HICKS

SUMNER, Miss. — Two colored boys believed to have been at the scene of Emmet Till's murder are the object of one of the greatest reporter manhunts this section of the nation has ever known.

Sources close to the trial have said that these two boys "have been disposed of" because they "know too much." Others say they are being held incommunicado in jail, pending developments in the trial.

The two boys are Leroy "Two Eight" Collins and Henry Lee Lo-

can, who are said to have worked for one of the defendants.

Reports range from placing the two boys at the scene of the crime, to the front of the house from which Till was taken August 25.

"Two Eight" is definitely missing from his former residence. His former landlady said "they came and got him Monday, a week ago. When asked who were they, she said, "the white people." When asked if she knew where he was, she said, "I hear he is in jail. I hope he is."

A woman, who lived with Harry Logan, said he is also "in jail I think." Friends of the two men report they just disappeared. Some reports say they are being held in a distant jail to be sprung as surprise witnesses by the prosecution. At this point, no one in an official capacity has discussed the two names.

Ask Federal Occupation Of Mississippi To Curb Terror

Daily Worker
Aut. 10-8-55

CHICAGO — (INS) — Occupation of Mississippi by Federal troops to halt what it termed "the wave of terror, intimidation and lynching of Negroes" in the state was called for Friday by the Chicago Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The resolution was passed at a special meeting of the Executive Committee of the Chicago NAACP as an outgrowth of the murder of Emmett Louis Till, 14-year-old Chicago Negro boy in Mississippi.

At the same time, the American Civil Liberties Union issued a statement in which it said that America cannot be called "a true democracy" until Constitutional guarantees are accorded all citizens, regardless of race or color.

The ACLU noted that two white men charged with the murder were acquitted by an all-white jury.

The Chicago NAACP pointed out that Mississippi has "a long history and record of state-condoned disregard" for democratic principles. It added:

"These charges weigh heavily against the state's right to soverignty among the states of this union."

Two Sumner, Miss., white men, Roy Bryant, 24 an his halfbrother, J. W. Milam, 36, were acquited of young Till's murder after the Chicago boy allegedly wolf whistled at Bryant's wife.

LeFlore County Grand Jury To Hear Kidnap Case In November

World

GREENWOOD, Miss. — (INS) — The two defendants in the Emmett Till murder case were released on bond Friday from the Leflore County Jail in Greenwood, Miss.

Sun. 10-4-55

J. W. Milam, 36, and his half-brother, Roy Bryant, 24, were free for the first time since they were arrested on August 29, for kidnapping Emmett Louis Till, 14-year-old Chicago youth.

P. 1

The two men were acquitted last week in Sumner, Miss., by an all-white, all-male jury on charges of murdering young Till, who was abducted upon the complaint of Bryant's wife, Carolyn.

They were taken to Greenwood, however, immediately after the trial to face charges of kidnapping Till.

Till was abducted in Lefore County, but a bod yidentified as his was found in neighboring Tallahatchie county.

Birmingham,

$10,000 BOND SET

Bond was set at $10,000 each for the two men, who pleaded not guilty to the kidnapping charges. Immediately after the hearing, the two men posted bond and were driven to nearby Minter City to join their families.

Ala.

Meanwhile, District Attorney Stanny Saunders and other law officials were kept busy checking out rumors that Till was still alive. The youth was reported seen simultaneously in Chicago, Detroit, New York, Jackson, Miss., Greenville, Miss., and in other cities.

Saunders said he didn't attach much credence to the rumors, but he was having some of them checked, nevertheless.

Milam and Bryant were acquitted in the murder trial largely on the basis of defense testimony that the body found in the Tallahatchie River was not that of Till. Till's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley, identified the body as that of her son. Mrs. Bradley testified at the trial that a ring found on the body was one that once belonged to Emmit's father who was killed in World War Two.

District Attorney Sanders said he will take the kidnapping charges before the Leflore County grand jury in November. If an indictment is issued, the two men will be tried later that month.

The Till case attracted international attention and is still having repercussions. Mass meetings protesting the acquittal have been held in Detroit, New York and Paris.

Diggs, Back In Detroit, Calls Till Trial 'Fantastic'

Tribune
Chicago
10-6-55

DETROIT — (ANP) — Back in the safe confines of Detroit, Cong. Charles Diggs last week called the trial of two whites for the murder of a Negro in Mississippi fantastic.

Diggs, while in Summer (the site of the trial), was quoted as saying the judge and prosecution conducted the trial in a commendable manner. However, here Sunday addressing a mass protest meetin, the congressman said he never saw such "sheer perjury and fantastic twisting of facts."

Rep. Diggs told more than 6,000 persons that Mississippi had failed to meet "this crucial test of justice in the treatment of human rights."

Oklahoma City

On trial in Sumner were Roy Bryant and his half brother, J. W. Milam. The pair was accused of murdering Emmett L. Till of Chicago who was visiting relatives near Money, Miss. An all-white, all-male jury acquitted the men. They still face kidnapping charges however.

A national news magazine reported that the sheriff each day greeted Congressman Diggs and Negro newsmen covering the trial with the salutation, "Good morning, niggers."

Being Held?

Two Who Saw Till Slaying Are Prisoners

Dispatch

CHICAGO — (ANP) — It was reliably reported here that two Negro men who reportedly saw the murder of Emmett Till and who might have taken part in it, are being held in a Mississippi jail.

Leroy Collins and Henry Loggins, both employed by Leslie Milam, brother of J. W. Milam, who was freed of murder charges in the Till death, are said to have been in jail at Charleston, Miss., under assumed names during the trial.

Thurs. 10-6-55

They were linked to the crime by Willie Reed, surprise state witness, who testified that he saw the Till boy in a truck with eight men, four of whom were Negroes, shortly after Till was kidnaped.

P. 2

According to a newsman, a woman who has a relative in the jail at Charleston went to the jail on a visit on Sept. 19, the day the Till trial opened. While there she was spoken to by a man who was washing clothes.

Oklahoma

She said the man gave her a message to deliver to a friend. Later, during the visit, she learned the man was Leroy Collins, who was being held with a friend for "investigation."

Ala.

The pair had been arrested, it was said, while washing blood from a pickup truck. They claimed they had been deer-hunting.

The woman said that when she delivered the message, she was told that the man was Leroy Collins and that his companion was Henry Loggins.

Reed testified during the trial that he ad seen the truck with Till in it near the Leslie Milam place. He said the truck went into the farm and later he heard screams coming from a barn.

It is believed that Collins and Loggins are the same men who were seen in the truck with Till and his abductors and that the two Negroes were forced to take part in the murder.

8808

2,500 at Chicago Rites for Boy, 14, Slain in South

Chicago Sun-Times 9-4-55

Services for Emmett Louis Till, 14, of 6427 St. Lawrence av., Chicago Negro youth slain in Mississippi, were held yesterday before more than 2,500 persons in Roberts' Temple of the Church of God and Christ, 4021 S. State st.

Sun. 9-4-55

The main sermon was delivered by the Rev. Archibald Carey, former 3d ward alderman, who said there had been "a surge for revenge, but it is not for us to take the law into our own hands." He termed the slaying a "brutal and cruel thing," but said that two wrongs do not make a right.

Red Tracts Distributed

Another crowd estimated at 2,000 waited outside the church, where inflammatory literature bearing the letterhead of "the Communist party of Illinois-Indiana, Claude Lightfoot, chairman" was passed out.

A communist handbill displayed a nurse holding the body of a child and was captioned, "Punish the Child Lynchers." It demanded federal prosecution of "Ku Klux lynchers and their accomplices, the Mississippi officials."

Till's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley, announced that burial would be postponed until 10 a. m. Tuesday to give more persons an opportunity to view the body. Crowds began filing past after the services. The body will be placed in the church from 6 a. m. to midnight today and tomorrow.

Mother Views Body

Bishop Isaiah Roberts, pastor of the church, led the services. The eulogy was delivered by Bishop Louis H. Ford, pastor of St. Paul's Church of God and Christ. State Sen. Marshall Korshak [D., Chicago] extended Mayor Daley's sympathy to the survivors, and said Till was "a martyr and inspiration to God fearing people."

Till's mother sat in the second row at the church and got up at one time to view his body. In the front row were other relatives, including George T. Smith, 1119 W. 61st st., an uncle of Till; Mrs. Alma Spearman, Till's grandmother, and Mrs. Mose Wright, of Money, Miss., a great-aunt with whom he was staying when he was abducted.

The doors of the church were locked shortly before the 1½ hour service began. Some persons who claimed to be relatives from out of town were admitted later by police.

Body Found in River

Remarks of the preachers drew an emotional response from the crowd.

Till was kidnaped a week ago. His body was found Wednesday, weighted down, in a river. There was a bullet hole in the head.

Roy Bryant, 25, a grocer in Money, and his half-brother, J. W. Milan, 40, have been arrested on kidnaping charges. Bryant's wife is sought on a similar charge. One of Till's cousins has attributed the kidnaping to an incident Aug. 24 when Till whistled at Mrs. Bryant in the grocery.

Till's Mother Agrees to Testify At Slaying Trial

Journal + Constitution Sun. 9-11-55 P. 18A

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 10 (AP)—The mother of a Chicago Negro boy will testify at the trial of two white Mississippi men charged with kidnaping and murdering him.

Atlanta

Roy Bryant, 24, and his half-brother, J. W. Milam, 35, will stand trial Sept. 19 on a charge of murdering 14-year-old Emmett Louis Till, who was visiting his uncle in Money, Miss.

William Henry Huff, attorney for the mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley, said Saturday in Chicago she definitely would be on hand for the trial.

Huff said the fact that Mrs. Bradley had been put under subpoena as a state witness was assurance of satisfactory protection.

* * *

EARLIER, Huff said he had asked the U.S. Justice Department to assign FBI agents to protect her during the trial. Mrs. Bradley also had asked for two Chicago detectives as bodyguards.

Dist. Atty. Gerald Chatham, who will prosecute the case, called the bodyguard proposal "absurd."

"If they're trying to make a farce out of this trial, that's a good way to go about it," Chatham said. "We offered her any reasonable protection. She won't need any at all, as far as that goes."

Chatham said a subpoena was issued to the mother as a routine matter. However, it canot be served on her unless she comes to Mississippi, as it is not valid outside the state.

Chatham said last week he would like Mrs. Bradley to testify.

Meanwhile, Gov. Hugh White formally assigned a special assistant attorney general to help Chatham, at the district attorney's request.

"THE PEOPLE of Mississippi are anxious to see justice done in this case according to the law and the evidence," he said, "and as governor I am glad to provide special counsel as evidence of our good faith in this prosecution."

Atty. Gen. J. P. Coleman, who will succeed White as governor next January, earlier had named a former FBI agent, Robert B. Smith III of Ripley, as special assistant attorney general. The governor then assigned him to the case.

* * *

THE STATE will try Bryant and Milam first on the murder indictment, skipping a kidnaping indictment until later.

Circuit Judge Curtis Swango will take the first step in prosecution of the case when he draws a special jury panel of 125 men Monday. Women do not serve on juries in Mississippi.

Kidnaped Negro Boy Slain; 2 Men Accused

World-Telegram and Sun 9-1-55

By the Associated Press.

GREENWOOD, Miss., Aug. 31.—The body of a 14-year-old kidnaped Negro boy was found in the Tallahatchie River today.

Washington Post 9-1-55

Officers said a cotton gin pully had been tied to his body with barbed wire. He apparently was killed by a blow on his head.

Tel 9-31-55

A fisherman found the body of Emmitt Louis Till, a Chicago boy visiting an uncle at the nearby community of Money.

Three white men and a woman took the boy from his uncle's home early Sunday after the boy allegedly made "ugly remarks" to a white woman.

Two white men, Roy Bryant and his half-brother, J. W. Milan, have been charged with kidnaping.

Swift Trial Due In Mississippi Kidnap-Killing

Evening Star Fri. 9-9-55 P. 8-A

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 9 (AP).—Circuit Court Judge Curtis Swango was expected today to set trial for two white men accused of kidnaping and murdering a 14-year-old Chicago Negro who whistled at a white woman.

Roy Bryant, 24, of Money, Miss., and his half-brother, J. W. Milam, 36, of Glendora, admit abducting Emmett Till from the farm of his uncle, but deny killing him.

Washington Post 9-10-55

Young Till, down from Chicago on vacation, reportedly whistled at Bryant's attractive 27-year-old wife when he went to their store with a group of Negro friends to purchase bubble gum.

He was taken from his uncle's farm on the night of August 28. Three days later his battered body was found in the Tallahatchie River, a bullet hole over the right ear and the left side of the skull caved in.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People termed it a "lynching."

Several Mississippi and Louisiana newspapers berated the Negro organization for its criticism of State officials.

Dr. Joseph Jackson of Chicago, president of the National Negro Baptist Convention, complimented Mississippi officials for their speedy handling of the case. He said the slaying was "worse than a lynching."

Gov. Hugh White of Mississippi insists it was "not a lynching but a straight-out murder."

Gov. White and Gov. William G. Stratton of Illinois have both called for a complete investigation of the killing.

District Attorney Gerald Chatham, who will handle the prosecution, has invited Mrs. Mamie Bradley, the slain youth's mother, to be a witness for the State.

Seek New Evidence

Afro American
Sat. 10-15-55

CHICAGO (ANP) — A definite move is under way here to secure additional evidence which might lead to new charges of murder against two white men who were freed in the death of 14-year-old Emmett Till in Sumner, Miss.

The men, who still face kidnapping charges in November, are Roy Bryant and his half-brother, J. W. Milam, who admitted they took Till from the home of his uncle, Moses Wright, but claimed they released him unharmed after determining that he was not the person who "insulted" Bryant's wife.

Chief cause for belief that a new trial is possible is the fact that Levi Collins, 22, who was reported missing after the prosecution sought him as a witness, is in Chicago.

COLLINS and Henry Lee Loggins, 19, are reported to have been seen with Till and several white men on the morning that Till was kidnapped from the home of his uncle, Moses Wright.

According to reliable reports, Collins and Loggins were hidden names during the trial. They were held there without charge until two days after Bryant and Milam were acquitted.

Leaders here have been interviewing Collins and plan to have him viewed by Willie Reed, 18, who testified that he saw two colored men and four white men with Till on the presumed day of the murder.

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IT IS BELIEVED that Loggins and Collins were eyewitnesses to the murder and that they were hidden by authorities in Mississippi so hey could not testify against the two accused white men.

Although Milam and Bryant are free of the murder charges, and it is not expected they will be convicted on the kidnap accusation, the Till case is far from dead. New developments include the following:

Reed, now in Chicago where he fled after testifying at the trial, is in Michael Reese Hospital under medical care and constant police guard.

Mrs. Mamie Bradley, Till's mother, suffering from the strain of events, was admitted to Provident Hospital here for medical observation and complete rest.

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MOSES WRIGHT, 64, Till's uncle, who identified Milam and Bryant as the two men who kidnapped the boy, is in Chicago and will go back to Mississippi to testify at the kidnap trial.

Reports that Mrs. Bradley will ask pathologists at the University of Chicago to examine the body of her son in an effort to make positive identification, were neither denied nor confirmed.

Plans are being made to bring Loggins, a railroad employee, to Chicago so Reed can see if he was one of the men seen with Till before the lad's death. Loggin, who was in St. Louis for a few days, is reported back in Mississippi.

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THUS, ENDED days of speculation concerning the whereabouts of the two men who are believed to be able to tell exactly how Till died and who killed him. Reports that they had been killed led to a request for FBI investigation.

There have also been reports of new outbreaks of violence in the Mississippi Delta area. Rep. Diggs, (D-Mich.) who attended the trial, said he had received reports that the husband of Mary Bradley, a witness, had been beaten up in Sumner, Miss.

Mrs. Bradley, no relation to the slain youth's mother, fled to Chicago after the trial, then left and went to Detroit.

• • •

ACCORDING TO Rep. Diggs, Mr. Wright left Mississippi after three carloads of white men came to his home looking for him. Diggs said Wright hid out in a cemetery until he was able to escape.

And down in Tallahatchie County, the local law enforcement officer, Sheriff H. C. Strider, seemed determined to do his best to prevent justice being done. It was Strider who first raised doubt that the body found was Till.

At last report, he was circulating rumors that Till was still alive and was hidden in Detroit, but added that "as far as knowing anything definite," I don't know it.

Mrs. Mamie Bradley declared that she would be willing to have her son's body exhumed "from the vault if that would dispel these wild rumors. If he were alive, I would know it."

Princeton hits Miss.

Afro-American
Sat. 10-15-55
p. 6
Baltimore

● Till's murder 'resurgence of racism'

PRINCETON—"The standards of justice and the attitude toward humanity implicit in the recent Emmett Till incident in Mississippi" were vigorously condemned here last week.

The condemnation was made by 51 members of the faculty of historic Princeton University and some 100 of its undergraduates.

They signed a joint statement expressing their desire to "place into public record our outrage over this act of our countrymen."

• • •

LABELING THE kidnap-murder of the 14-year-old Till as "the resurgence of racism in its most virulent form," the statement declared:

"The action conflicts with every tenent of the American heritage and will arouse decent people the world around."

William Zabel of Sioux Falls, S.D., was chairman of the committee that drew up the statement and passed it on to faculty members and undergraudates for their signatures.

Among the signers were these heads of departments at the university:

• • •

IRA O. WADE, modern languages and literature; Ledger Wood, philosophy; Carlos Baker, English; and Lester V. Chandler, economics and sociology.

Zabel asserted: "I hope the statement will 'offset' the repercussions of the Till slaying abroad.

"This spontaneous action by faculty members and students signifies that there are Americans who are deeply disturbed about the climate of opinion in which this incident occurred."

WADE SAID: "The statement will have no effect as to whether these men (Till's alleged slayers) are convicted in their kidnaping trial.

"We want the petition to show that at least a segement in America does not support racism.

"Occurrences such as this damage our position in the world. I am very sensitive to things that jeopardize our dignity in this realm.

• • •

"I ASSUME that the trial was run quite farily. However, in the light of what I know, the verdict seems to be an injudicious one."

'Hope I'm Not Wasting Time!'



8809

Do Not Comprehend Democratic Concepts

A Negro minister (Rev. G. W. Lee), was slain in Mississippi a fortnight ago because he was a militant registered voter and refused under pressure to take his name from the registration rolls. He was allegedly "triggered" by a Negro and shot to death by two white men. The fact that a citizen has been murdered for his refusal to scratch his name from the registration rolls appears not to concern the administration of law and order in Mississippi. The governor of Mississippi feels that since the NAACP has asked for an investigation of the entire incident nothing should be done because he (the governor) feels they are "radicals."

The fact that 309 citizens registered in Humphreys county have scratched their names from the registration rolls because of threats, pressures and acts of intimidation fails to arouse any sense of injustice in the Mississippi governor is appalling and unbelievable. At the same time we find Mississippi's Senator Eastland calling for an investigation of the U. S. Supreme Court's decision on school segregation. These two actions indicate that the minds of the political leadership of Mississippi simply do not comprehend the full meaning of the democratic and christian concepts we live by in this country.

Father Twomey, in a speech last week, significantly called attention to the tragedy of such irresponsible actions which have been repeatedly pointed out by high officials of President Eisenhower's administration. Secretary of State Dulles in a recent address warned: "Let our people intensify their determination to respect human rights and fundamental freedom. Our discriminations at home and abroad are not only a moral blot on our so-called Christian civilization, but they are a major international hazard . . . Throughout the world there are myriad souls that suffer in humiliation and bitterness because of the white man's assumption of racial superiority."

Vice-President Nixon repeated Dulles' warning in these words: "Every act of racial discrimination or prejudice in the United States is blown up by the Communists abroad and it hurts America as much as an espionage agent who turns over a weapon to a foreign enemy."

Further Father Twomey said in the context of these warnings, "any American who holds to the theory of White supremacy and actively promotes the political, economic and social restrictions necessary to make the theory practically effective, cannot avoid being identified with those who are willing to undermine their country's strength in the face of the enemy."

It is truly pathetic that a democratic nation such as ours has to continually be embarrassed before the public opinion of the world by such "Democrats" as Gov. White and Sen. Eastland as well as those for whom they speak. The U. S. Supreme Court has spoken and as such speaks as the greatest deliberative body in the United States. It's not likely that the resolution of the Mississippi Senator is going to intimidate that judicial body or is it likely the Congress of the United States is going to investigate the May 17 decision of the Supreme Court or any other decision. To honor so absurd a request as Senator Eastland's would undermine the whole structure of our government. For certainly if you investigated the Supreme Court then there would be reason to investigate every citizen of this great nation, including Sen. Eastland.

Before the investigation of the Supreme Court decision, there should be a series of investigations in Mississippi as to why American citizens of Negro descent are pressured, intimidated and even killed if they don't scratch their names from the registration rolls. Red Russia's "thought control" tactics appear to have a lot in common with what's going on in Mississippi.

Negro Killing Spurs Demand For Election Housecleaning

BROOKHAVEN, Miss., Aug. 18 (AP)—Dist. Atty. E. C. Barlow today asked for a general housecleaning of what he termed election fraud and corruption throughout Lincoln County.

Barlow said he has "evidence of the violation in every form of the corrupt practices act and the privilege of absentee voting has been shamefully abused . . .

"There is existing in this county a general situation which I do not care to discuss but it is publicly and generally known and it is high time . . . that the elections . . . be brought back to fair, honest, decent, and impartial elections without fraud and corruption heretofore existing."

The charges grew out of a tense countywide situation climaxed by Saturday's courthouse lawn shooting of a Negro active in politics.

The Negro, Lamar (Ditney) Smith, 63-year-old dog trainer, died of a single bullet wound under the right arm. Three white men were charged with murder in the shooting.

All Post Bond

After each posted $20,000 bond and were freed, Barlow explained he released them "rather than expose my hand and reveal the evidence I have against them prior to the convening of the grand jury . . ."

The district attorney also leveled a charge at Gov. Hugh White, contending the governor refused his request for highway patrol aid in investigating the killing.

"The governor said he would do nothing without being requested by the sheriff," Barlow said. "If he wants to ignore the other citizens and the request from the district attorney's office, that is his blunder and not mine."

In Jackson, Gov. White told newsmen he had no authority to send the highway patrol into any county without the proper request.

Barlow denounced the sheriff, Bob Case, saying he did not do his duty and arrest a suspect in the Smith slaying and he "has not turned up one witness to anything."

Witnesses Summoned

Barlow said he summoned the dozen witnesses to the inquest which resulted in his filing murder charges against Noah Smith, 59, Mack Smith, 45, and Charles Falvey, 39, all of near Brookhaven.

He said the sheriff "told me he saw Noah Smith leave the scene of the killing with blood all over him.

"It was his duty to take that man into custody regardless of who he was, but he did not do it."

Meanwhile, Nelson Case, candidate for supervisor, said a citizens meeting was held last night and 300 signed a petition asking Gov. White for National Guard protection at the polls during the Aug. 23 second Democratic primary election.

Gov. White told newsmen he has received no petition but had rumors to that effect.

Three men accused in Mississippi slaying are freed on bond

BROOKHAVEN, Miss., Aug. 18 —(AP)—Three white men, charged with murder in the shotgun slaying of an elderly Negro, are free on $20,000 bond each today and awaiting Grand Jury action next month.

Sheriff Bob Case of Lincoln County identified the three as Noah Smith, 59 Mac Smith, 45, and Charles Falvey 35. They are charged in the shooting of Lamar Smith, 63-year-old farmer, on the lawn of the Brookhaven Courthouse last Saturday.

The three waived preliminary hearing before Justice of the Peace P. F. Allen, and were bound over to the September Grand Jury after posting bond.

THE MURDERED man was reported to have urged other Ne-

groes to cast absentee ballots in Mississippi's gubernatorial race.

The sheriff said he planned to take normal precautions during next Tuesday's second Democratic primary and would "be prepared in case of violence. I'm going to give the people protection."

Newsmen were unable to substantiate reports of a "mass citizens meeting" to petition Gov. Hugh White to send National Guard troops to police the polls Tuesday.

since the shooting last Saturday.

PREVIOUS SLAYING

A previous slaying in Mississippi involved the mysterious shot-gun killing of Rev. George Lee last May 7.

The militant Belzoni, Miss., minister was allegedly threatened prior to his death for not removing his name from the voting list and for urging other Belzoni

farmer, Noah Smith, on a murder warrant sworn out by the district attorney.

A preliminary hearing scheduled this afternoon for Noah Smith before Justice of the Peace E. S. Allen was postponed by the district attorney, Allen said. Barlow said the postponement was "indefinite."

"Barlow asked me to send the Highway Patrol down there to arrest Noah Smith for murder," said Gov. White.

"But I can't send the Highway Patrol or the National Guard anywhere to do anything unless the

Politically Active Negro Figure Victim Of Slaying

BROOKHAVEN, Miss. — (SNS) — A second slaying since "Citizens Councils" created an air of violence in Mississippi following the Supreme Court's desegregation ruling occurred Tuesday night by a coroner's jury which charged three white farmers with murder in the fatal shooting of a Negro political figure.

The slain man was identified as Lamar Smith, 63, who was cut down by a blast on the courthouse square. In addition to the three farmers, the jury said 'other parties unknown' probably were involved in the downtown slaying.

Meanwhile, controversy concerning Negro voting become more pronounced. The killing cast an air of tension over next week's Democratic primary runoff. The controversy of Negro voting has grown progressively since during the first primary, August 2, when Atty. Gen. J. P. Coleman and Paul B. Johnson pulled ahead of the field land in a runoff.

In the runoff, the Negro vote could be the deciding ballots.

JUSTICE DEPT. PROBE

Meanwhile in Washington the Justice Department revealed that it is investigating charges that Negroes were denied the right to vote. However, a question of jurisdiction would have to be settled before the Justice Department could take action on its findings.

Observers expressed belief that Smith, active in politics, openly campaigned against a county supervisor.

Other reports disclosed that residents of the supervisor's district are preparing a formal plea to Gov. Hugh White for National Guardsmen to protect aganist violence at polling places in next Tuesday's runoff.

Murder charges were filed by District Attorney E. C. Barlow against Mack Smith, about 45, Noah Smith about 50, and Charles Favley, around 35. All of the men reside near Brookhaven. They were jailed pending a preliminary hearing.

The District Attorney said Lincoln Country was full of tension

Negroes to register to vote. He died enroute to the hospital after his car crashed into a house.

Shot-gun pellets were found imbedded in facial wounds of Rev. Lee giving rise to the conjecture that he lost control of his car after being shot by three white men in a convertible car. Subsequent investigations substantiated this theory.

Some NAACP leaders called the slaying a modern day lynching and attributed it to the work of the "Citizens Councils" which have vowed to fight public school integration by economic pressure and other means. Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the NAACP, declined to place direct blame on the Citizens Councils, but inferred that their actions possibly led to the slaying.

principal law enforcement officer in that county asks for my help," Gov. White said.

The Governor stated that politics was causing the entire "mess" and it was not the business of the Governor of a state to interfere with local politics.

"You know, Barlow just did not give the sheriff enough time to perform his duties," said the Governor. "The man Smith gave himself up in time." He stated that he had heard a rumor that "a petition was being circulated around Lincoln county for me to send the National Guard to Brookhaven during election day."

"But I am not going to send the National Guard to any town or county without first being asked by the sheriff," said Gov. White.

He said the sheriff had "convinced me that everything was under control" and if he needed any help from the state level he would "call on me" in plenty of time.

Gov. White stated that Sheriff Case had told him that there was nothing special about the incident

Governor White Says Sheriff Can Handle Brookhaven Situation

"The sheriff and his deputies can handle any situation that might arise in Brookhaven," said Governor Hugh L. White after a visit by Lincoln County Sheriff Robert Case, Monday.

The Governor added that he has no intention of sending the National Guard to Lincoln county on second primary election day.

Sheriff Case's visit to the Governor followed the Saturday slaying of Lamar "Dipney" Smith, Negro political figure in Lincoln County, and an appeal to the Governor for help by District Attorney E. C. Barlow, and the subsequent arrest by the sheriff of a white

and there was "no need" for all the attention being given to the case.

"Sheriff Case said he and his deputies could handle the situation and until he askes me for help I am going to let him run his own county," said the Governor.

"I must be dependent on local law enforcement officers to handle their own matters and that is what I will do until they want my help," Gov. White said.

He said local or state political squabbles could not be settled "by the gun." "If that were true, I would have already got a shotgun to a certain candidate I know," the Governor said. He did not identify the candidate.

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8810

MISSISSIPPI

43 Integrated Schools

The public schools of Kansas City, Mo., are more integrated than it was anticipated last spring they would be. Forty-three out of a total of 92 schools have both white and Negro pupils enrolled. In some instances there is only one Negro in a school, but that is enough to make the school integrated.

The Kansas City school board has done well as far as the integration of students is concerned. De-segregation in the classrooms has meant just that. School boundary lines were set last spring according to the number of pupils living in districts and the capacities of the school buildings. No attention was paid to the race and color of the children as the survey was made. The research work which led to the new boundaries was done by James A. Hazlett, then director of research for the school system and now the superintendent of schools.

In Kansas City, Kas., the situation is different. There the boundary lines were not established and publicized well in advance of the opening of school as they were in Missouri. Over there, a white child living next door to a Negro child goes to a different school. That does not make sense. No such thing is happening on the Missouri side.

Over here, the early publication of the boundary lines, together with a liberal transfer policy, accounted in part for the smooth operation of de-segregation on this side of the Inter-city viaduct. Parents of school children could determine early in the year to which school their boys and girls would be assigned in the fall and if for some reason they did not care to attend that school, they had plenty of time to move into another district. The school board also made it easy for parents to transfer their children to a school outside of their district provided that school was not too crowded. And to avoid confusion, schools were labeled "open" to transfer, "closed" and "critical" according to the amount of space for children from outside the district.

De-segregation is moving smoothly in Kansas City without a ripple of difficulty in any of the 43 schools where there is a mixed student body. White children are attending schools formerly populated by Negroes only and Negroes are attending former "white" schools.

White children in former "Negro" schools are members of families which believe in living democracy as well as reading about it in the history books. They did not "run" because there might be a brown-skinned child seated next to their white child as they studied arithmetic and geometry.

White families who moved away from a school where it was known Negro children would attend in many instances were surprised to find that the new school district also had some Negro children. Out of the 78 elementary schools in the city, 32 or 41 per cent of them have Negro children enrolled. Out of 14 high schools, 11 have at least one Negro student, leaving only three with an all-white enrollment. Lincoln high has two white students and R. T. Coles, at least a dozen.

Unfortunately, the placement of teachers has not run as smoothly as the enrollment of children. There is some initial confusion as de-segregation gets under way. But even in the matter of teachers, the board of education has gone further than it promised it would last spring. A beginning toward the integration of faculties has been made at two grade schools and, to a more limited degree, at one high school.

The assignment of teachers without regard to race or color is bound to come. As we have said in these columns before, the shortage of teachers in Missouri and throughout the nation will keep Negro teachers from being kept out of the picture very long.

We cannot blame the teachers who have been given assignments out of their field for being disgruntled. And such displacement is not the best thing for the school system. The students benefit more when their teachers are engaged in teaching subjects for which they are best prepared.

But in a period of transition from segregation to integration, there are bound to be some knots which will take a little time to smooth out. It would have been much more to our liking had the school board decided last spring that the teachers would be integrated along with the pupils.

But since it did not, we would rather see the upheaval among the few teachers than "incidents" in the classrooms. The pupils are integrating beautifully. In a few months, the school board will have courage enough to place a Negro teacher wherever there is a need for an instructor of his training and ability. That will mean the end of discrimination against the Negro teacher. It is certain to come.

Spectators Searched By Sheriff

Defendants Are Calm As Jury Is Selected

By JAMES L. KILGALLEN

SUMNER, Miss.—(INS) — The "wolf-whistle" murder trial entered its second day Tuesday with two jurors yet to be selected.

It is a fascinating courtroom drama.

While a battery of eight prosecution and defense lawyers struggle to obtain a jury to try two Mississippi white men for the kidnap-murder of Emmett Till, a 14-year-old Chicago Negro boy, this entire region in the Delta seethes with excitement.

So far, most of the drama has centered around the two defendants—Roy Bryant, a good-looking, 24-year-old ex-paratrooper who operated a general store at Money, Miss., and his half-brother, J. W. Milam, 36, a war veteran of Glendora, Miss.

They are accused of having kidnaped the Till boy from his uncle's home near Money after Bryant's pretty, 21-year-old wife had told her husband that Till allegedly whistled and made "ugly remarks" to her when he and several other Negro boys visited the Bryant store to buy bubble gum.

In the courtroom, Bryant and Milam sat with their wives and children in a front row while the tedious job of selecting the jury proceeded.

Both defendants have two baby sons. Between puffs on cigarets, Bryant and Milam dangled their little boys on their laps and smiled as one of the children flourished a toy pistol.

Now and then Bryant nestled close to his wife, Carolyn, and whispered to her. Next to Milam sat his attractive 27-year-old wife, Juanita, who watched the courtroom proceedings with unconcealed interest.

Both defendants were coatless. Occasionally they drank sips of water from a paper cup. They were calm and relaxed.

Urbane, efficient Judge Curtis M. Swango, who is presiding at the trial, made it clear he wanted everybody to be comfortable. So he ruled that spectators could remove their coats if they desired.

The press, including Negro newsmen, were treated well by the judge. He welcomed all the reporters from New York, Chicago, Detroit, Memphis, Atlanta, New Orleans and elsewhere and said he expected cooperation from them in helping maintain decorum in the courtroom.

White newsmen were seated at four tables in the front of the courtroom. The Negro press sat segregated at a special table on one side of the room near open windows.

The weather was hot and two big fans whirred continuously.

Sheriff H. C. Strider, a big, heavy-set man, gave a "kick" to the proceedings when he and his deputies searched everyone who entered the courtroom for guns or other weapons.

He said he did this because he had received 150 threatening letters from anonymous individuals in New York, Chicago, Detroit and elsewhere.

The sheriff said he did not scare easily and declared that if any guns were used in the courtroom he and his deputies would use them.

Everybody entering the courtroom was frisked thoroughly, including newsmen and photographers.

Mrs. Bryant, if she is called to the stand, would be one of the key witnesses of the trial.

She is the one person who knows what happened when the Till boy came into her husband's store. Her story has not yet been told publicly.

Defense Attorney Sidney Carlton told International News Service that in all likelihood Mrs. Bryant will be called as a witness.

Three days after the Till boy's visit to the Bryant store late in August he was taken from the home of his uncle, Mose Wright, a tenant farmer, in the dead of the night. His body was found several days later in the Tallahatchie river. He had been badly beaten and shot.

With the selection of the jury one of the first witnesses for the state was expected to be the Negro boy's Uncle Mose.

Prospective jurors were asked during their interrogation by the lawyers if they would be influenced by the fact that the two men on trial are white and that the victim was a Negro.

One venireman who could not

make up his mind on this point was excused by the court.

Others were disqualified because they admitted they had contributed to a defense fund for the men on trial.

No mention of the death penalty, or of capital punishment was made at any stage of the questioning. This was regarded in some quarters as indicating that the state will not demand the death penalty.

The ten men accepted as jurors on the opening day were locked up for the night at the Delta Inn in Sumner under the supervision of four bailiffs.

They were instructed not to read newspapers, listen to radio broadcasts or discuss the case among themselves.

Seventy newsmen and photographers are covering the trial. Cameramen are not allowed to take pictures while the court is in session but they can "shoot" as many as they like in the courtroom during recesses.

Residents of Sumner and nearby communities have gone out of their way to be hospitable to the visiting press. Newsmen are invited out nightly for dinner in private homes.

Local merchants with stores near the courtroom have provided places for reporters to work.

The courtroom is packed to capacity, with a large crowd of standees overflowing into the adjacent corridor.

The throng in the second floor courtroom includes men, women and children, white and colored.

On the main floor of the courthouse, the wire services have installed private long distance telephone and telegraph wires to their offices. An enterprising individual has set up a stand in the main floor corridor at which soft drinks and sandwiches are served.

Outside, on the lawn in the shade of big oak trees, many elderly gentlemen sit on benches and discuss the case for hours.

The one topic of conversation in Sumner is the trial.

THE GOOSE TAKES A GANDER

By Norman Beck

We understand that when the verdict was brought in by the jury over in Mississippi in the Till murder trial that the spectators in the court room cheered.

Here is something that needs a little serious contemplation: If the cheers were the result of people thinking that no proof positive of the defendants' guilt was presented and they were happy that no mis-carriage of justice had been wrought then we will cheer with them; if the cheers were the result of people thinking that white people had put the colored man in his place . . .

Too often we hear of cases like Dr. Shephard in Ohio where a man is convicted on purely circumstantial evidence. Every judge instructs the jury in a first degree murder trial that each juryman must be convinced by the evidence presented in the case beyond the shadow of a doubt. We understand there were no witnesses to the death of Emmett Till. True enough, the circumstances point strongly toward the two defendants and men have been convicted on less evidence.

These two Mississippi white men still face charges of kidnapping or abduction and it will be interesting to see how their attorney will try to free them. Evidence presented in the murder trial is almost conclusive that they did abduct the youth and administer a beating. Will they perjure themselves and deny all in a subsequent trial? If they do perjure themselves will Mississippi authorities prosecute them for lying or perhaps will we hear that "they have suffered enough mental anguish during their trials to pay for whatever crime they may have committed."

For many years northern reformers and the NAACP have pointed their fingers at the state of Mississippi as being the worst offender in denying all the rights and privileges guaranteed by the constitution of the United States to a large portion of her native population, namely ,the Mississippi Negro. That there is ample reason for this finger pointing goes without saying. We are all aware of it, but what can be done about it?

Way back yonder in 1861, Mississippi along with ten other states decided that it didn't much care for a strong federal government but rather would prefer a strong state government. As a matter of fact they preferred the state government idea so much that they were willing to send their young men to war to prove that it was a better system of government. Mississippi was allied with the other ten states in what was known as the Confederate states of America. Historians admit that the nation's greatest military minds were in the south and the CSA came very near winning the war. However in the long run the Confederacy, lacking a strong union such as they were opposed by to the north, lost their war but not before many valiant and courageous young men had died to prove that their system of government was actually less than what they had died to prove it was.

In 1864 the president of the United States, by executive Proclamation, emancipated the thousands of Negro slaves in the south. The next year the war ended and the south was left a barren waste land stripped not only of its finest young men but also of its basic economy, slavery.

The eleven states were gradually permitted to re-enter the union they had forsaken only on the condition that they prepare state constitutions that would not violate the constitution of the United States. In the meantime the fourteenth amendment to the constitution had been ratified guaranteeing equal protection under the law to all the citizens of the United States . . . period. Mississippi, too, had to provide for such in her constitution. What has happened in Mississippi since that time is very similar to what has happened in the other ten states and is not a very pretty picture.

Following the war between the states a vast army of Scroungers descended on the former Confederate states while their educated white people were still disenfranchised and proceeded to use the illiterate Negro to suit their own not so pure purposes. The state legislatures in the south were soon filled with uneducated ex-slaves who were almost incapable of any concerted intelligent law making at all. The white southerners soon saw that in order to resume any reasonable order of life they were going to have to wrest control of politics out of the hands of the carpetbaggers and their Negro stooges. Thus was how the Ku Klux Klan and similar masked organizations were formed to play upon the still strong superstitions of the ignorant Negro.

We do not condone the Klan for its acts of violence any more than we condone the Confederate states in their secession. However there was a necessity for a return to reason in the various state legislatures. Mississippi like the other states soon passed laws in violation to the Fourteenth amendment. At first perhaps in an effort to help the Negro but soon this effort was lost and the agrarian south south needed cheap labor. Down thru the years the white man in the south who has stood to profit most thru the ignorance of the Negro has stood most in the way of Negro progress.

That the government of the United States should once again take a look at the laws of this former enemy should not have to be said here.

The views expressed here are those of the writer and do not necessarily express those of the PRESS. —Editor

8811

Till Murder Trial Starts; Death Penalty Isn't Asked

Courier-Journal P.1&4
Louisville, Ky.

By ART EVERETT
Associated Press Staff Writer

Sumner, Miss., Sept. 19.—Two white men went on trial today for the murder of a teen-age Negro boy from Chicago. At the end of the court day, 10 prospective jurors had been tentatively seated.

The defendants—Roy Bryant, 24, and his half-brother, J. W. Milam, 36—went on trial with their 2-year-old boys on their laps. Flanking each defendant a few feet from the judge's bench in the steamy Mississippi courtroom was a slightly older son.

The little boys' thin wails, or their childish laughter, cut across the routine hum of court proceedings in the most sensational murder trial the Mississippi delta has seen in years.

Tues. 9-20-55

The State questioned prospective jurors first. After running through about half of the panel of 106 prospects it announced it was satisfied with the 12 men then seated. The defense excused two of those 12 and court was adjourned until 9 a.m.

A crowd of perhaps 350 people filled the 280-seat courtroom and the second-floor hall outside, or lounged on the steps of the Courthouse around which this town of 550 is built.

The three rear rows of eight in the courtroom were filled by Negroes. Whites took up the other seats. Sheriff H. C. Strider said admission was on a first-come, first-served basis.

Everyone was searched for weapons before being admitted to the courtroom. Strider said he has had more than 150 threatening letters—mostly from Northern cities—since the Till boy's death and that he feared courtroom violence.

When Circuit Judge Curtis Swango, Jr., banged the gavel for the formal beginning of jury picking, Bryant and Milam walked into the courtroom. Each carried his 2-year-old son and each had an older boy by the hand. Bryant's older boy is 3, Milam's 4.

Mississippians in the courtroom said it is not unusual for a defendant to bring in a small child. In many parts of the country it is unprecedented.

Bryant and Milam are accused of the kidnap-slaying of 14-year-old Emmett Till, a Chicago Negro. He was vacationing in Mississippi last month and was slain after he allegedly made offensive remarks and wolf-whistled at Bryant's attractive 21-year-old wife, Carolyn.

Both defendants have pleaded innocent.

Both Mrs. Bryant and 27-year-old Juanita Milam were in court with their husbands and the youngsters.

As the State and the defense went to work picking an all-white, all-male jury for the murder trial, District Attorney Gerald Chatham emphasized he is not asking for the death penalty.

Said the prosecutor: "The State will not ask for the infliction of the death penalty since a substantial part of the State's evidence is circumstantial evidence."

Bryant, a handsome, bushy-haired man, and Milam, taller, stockier, and nearly bald, sat out tedious trial preliminaries across the street from the 45-year-old gray-brick courthouse. They were in the custody of their lawyers and not guarded.

State Wins Delay In 'Wolf-Whistle' Trial

Courier—Journal
Slaying Case To Be Resumed This Morning

Wed. 9-21-55

Sumner, Miss., Sept. 20 (U.P.)—The State unexpectedly sought and won a recess today in the trial of two white men for the wolf-whistle slaying of a Negro boy, so that new witnesses could be brought into the case.

A jury of 10 farmers, a laborer, and an insurance man had been completed and court reconvened after lunch for the presentation of the State's case against half brothers Roy Bryant, 24, and J. W. Milam, 36. They are accused of killing Emmett Louis Till, 14, Chicago.

But instead of putting the first of his 13 witnesses on the stand, District Attorney Gerald Chatham moved for a recess. Defense counsel J. J. Breeland jumped up and protested the "most-unusual" move, but Judge Curtis M. Swango granted a recess until 11 a.m. tomorrow so Chatham could summon his witnesses, who were not identified.

Louisville Ky.

Swango held that the request was not unreasonable and, besides, he had considered ending court for today because the great crowd created a fire hazard that "could create a great tragedy."

The hot and smoky courtroom was crowded with 450 spectators, including 50 standees inside the railing, and the judge twice had to order the corridors outside cleared of other hundreds.

The jurors, ranging in age from 30 to 65, nearly all have sunburned faces from toil out of doors and wore sports or other open-collar shirts.

Despite today's delay, counsel for both sides said they expected the trial to be concluded by the end of the week.

One of the early witnesses is expected to be the victim's mother. The Till boy was said to have sounded his own death knell when he directed a "wolf whistle" at the wife of one of the defendants.

The oyungster's battered and shot body, weighted with a piece of cotton-gin machinery, was pulled from a river last month, three days after he was abducted from the home of an uncle where he was visiting.

Mamie Bradley, Till's mother, and Representative Charles C. Diggs, Negro Democratic congressman from Michigan, arrived as the jury was being completed. They were seated with the segregated Negro press in the courtroom.

In New York, President A. Philip Randolph of the Brotherhood of Sleeipng Car Porters (A.F.L.), called for a mass meeting in Harlem Sunday to protest "the lynching of young Emmett Louis Till in Mississippi."

'Wolf Call' Trial Opens; 3 Jurors Out

Constitution
Atlanta, Ga.
Tues. 9-20-55

Trio Are Linked To Defense Fund

By JOHN HERBERS

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 19 (UP) — The trial of two white half-brothers for the "wolf call" slaying of a young northern Negro opened today with the selection of 10 jurors and the dismissal of three other veniremen who were linked with a $6,000 defense fund.

Soft - spoken Judge Curtis M. Swango adjourned court until 9 a.m., CST, tomorrow after the defense and prosecution agreed on 10 members of the 12-man all-white jury. Eight of them were farmers, one an insurance man and the 10th a laborer.

On trial were Roy Bryant, 34, and J. W. Milam, 36, both combat veterans of the European theater in World War II. They were accused of kidnaping Emmett Till, 14-year-old Negro visitor from Chicago, from the home of his uncle, beating him and shooting him to death.

NEGRO REPORTERS

The state charged the half-brothers weighted young Till's body and tossed it into the Tallahatchie River several miles from this small Mississippi Delta farming town. The crime allegedly stemmed from Till's wolf-whistle at Bryant's pretty brunette wife on a visit to the couple's country store at Money, Miss.

As the trial got under way, eight Negro reporters, most of them representing Northern newspapers, were segregated at a separate table.

"We haven't mixed so far down here and we don't intend to," said husky Sheriff H. C. Strider, who also searched the spectators for arms as they entered.

BEGINS CHALLENGES

During the preliminary legal maneuvers, the prosecution used up 11 of its 12 preemptory challenges and the defense rejected two more members of the venire.

Swango excused three prospective jurors when they were connected with the defense fund although merchant G. T. Peoples said he had refused to sponsor in any way a collection jar placed in his store.

The prosecution did not question the prospects whether they believed in capital punishment, leading to speculation that the death penalty would not be sought for either the kidnaping or murder, both capital offenses in Mississippi.

'Wolf Whistle' Slaying Trial To Open Today

Post-Herald
Mon. 9-19-55
Birmingham Ala.
P. 1

Two Are Accused Of Kidnap-Killing Of Negro Who Whistled At Woman

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 17 (U.P.)—Two white men go on trial for their lives in the small courthouse of this delta cotton town tomorrow for the 'wolf whistle' slaying of a stammering, teen-age Chicago Negro.

The defendants, Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam, remained calm but grim in the jail in nearby Charleston tonight on eve of their trial for the murder of 14-year-old Emmett Till. The case has attracted nationwide attention.

Till was abducted and slain after he allegedly insulated Bryant's wife by whistling at her. Till was in Mississippi visiting an uncle near Greenwood. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has termed the slaying a "lynching."

"The people of Mississippi are anxious to see justice done in this case," said Gov. Hugh White, who appointed a special prosecutor, Robert B. Smith, of Ripley, to assist Dist. Atty. Gerald Chatam in presenting the case.

The governor's attitude of concern contrasted with that of some of the residents of Sumner, which has a population of less than 1000. Many seemed not to welcome the unusual attention paid to their hometown.

"You're making a mountain out of a mole-hill," a man shouted at reporters arriving early to cover the trial. "The NAACP really is making you work."

Defense attorneys predicted the trial will last no longer than three days. Should Bryant and Milam be acquitted, they would face immediate trial on kidnaping charges.

"We don't believe the state has a case," said C. Carlton Sidney, one of five defense attorneys in the case.

Till was taken from his bed early on the morning of Aug. 28 by Bryant and Milam. The two men, who are half-brothers, told authorities they let the boy go when they found that he wasn't the one who whistled at Mrs. Bryant.

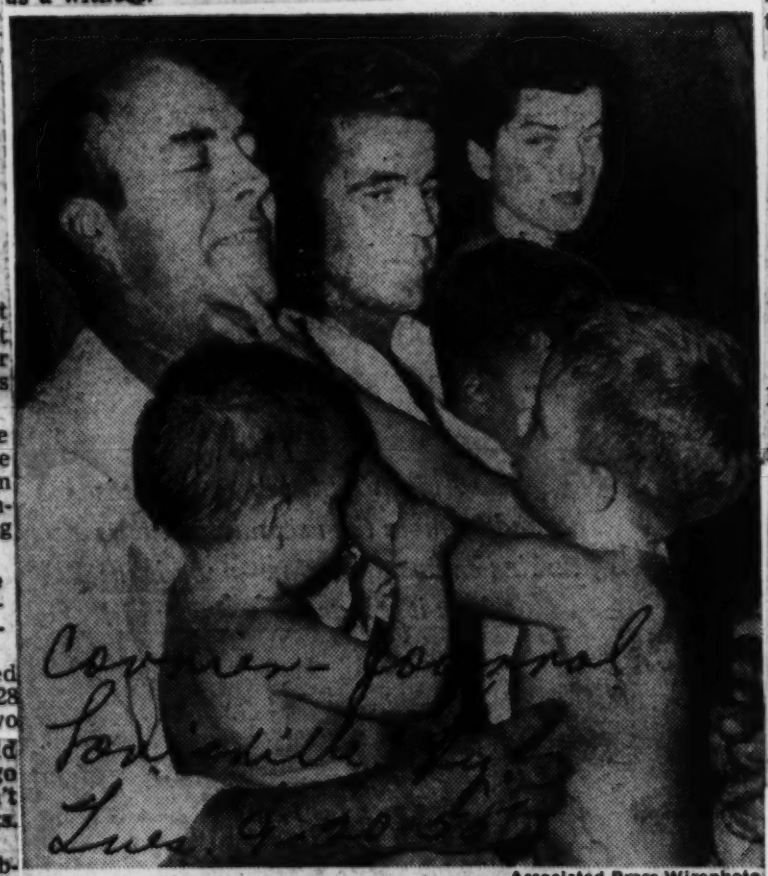
Three days after Till was abducted, a fisherman found a body identified as that of the missing youth which had been bludgeoned and shot. The identification was made by Till's uncle, Moses Wright. The body had been weighed in the Tallahatchie River with a heavy blower from a cotton gin fan.

Post-Herald

Sheriff H. C. Strider said he doubted the body was that of Till because it didn't look like pictures he had seen of the boy.

P. 2

Till's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley, of Chicago, was expected to appear as a prosecution witness. But her attorney said in Chicago that she would not attend the opening of the trial and wouldn't leave Chicago until she is called as a witness.



Courier-Journal
Louisville Ky.

Associated Press Wirephoto

PLAYTIME IN COURT . . . J. W. Milam, left, plays with his 5-year-old son, Bill, during afternoon recess in his Sumner, Miss., murder trial while holding his other son, Harvey, 2. Beside Milam is Roy Bryant, also on trial in the slaying of Emmett Till, 14. Bryant's son, Roy, Jr., is on his lap, and his wife is beside him.

Tension Still High In Mississippi: Two New Cases

Dispatch
Columbus O.
P. 12
Oklahoma City Okla.

CLARKSDALE, Miss.—(ANP—The new outbreaks of racial violence have served to keep at a high pitch the tension which has gripped Mississippi since the murder of a young Negro boys.

At Clarksdale, Coahoma county officers are searching for a Negro who is said to have disarmed a deputy sheriff, who was giving him a ticket for speeding.

Deputy Sheriff Elzy Smith said he stopped a car with five men in it and warned the driver against speeding. Smith said the driver "cussed" him, and he ordered him from the car and asked for his driver's license.

While the officer was writing out the ticket, Smith said, the man grabbed him and took his pistol. He took back his driver's license and fled. He was chased by the deputy until mud halted the puruit.

Smith said that the other men in the car took no part in the fracas.

Meanwhile, at Marks, Miss., officers of two states took part in a manhunt for Wilson Melton, 27, who is sought for the attempted assault of a white house wife at her home 15 miles from Summer, scene of the sensational Till trial.

Officers said Melton is a day laborer on the River Bend plantation on the Tallahatchie river in southern Quitman county and said the woman reported the assault took place only a few minutes after the Till jury returned a verdict of not quilty.

State highway patrolmen from Mississippi and Arkansas are looking for the suspect and officers in Poiner, Ark., where he formerly lived, have been alterted to be on the lookout for him.

NAACP Heads Till Campaign

Defender
Chicago Ill.
P. 1 & 2
9-17-55

The Chicago branch of the NAACP has been authorized by Mrs. Mamie Elizabeth Bradley, mother of Emmett Louis Till to "handle the case in their own manner and also to raise funds to finance the prosecution."

Mrs. Gora M. Patton, president of the Chicago NAACP announced that the NAACP did not authorize collection of any funds at the funeral parlor or the church where certain individuals were soliciting funds in the name of the NAACP, Mrs. Patton said.

"The NAACP is now raising funds to assure a full investigation of those responsible for the lynching of Emmett Till and to guarantee that those responsible for the crime are prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

NAACP Studies Legal Angles In Slaying Of Chicago Youth

Tribune
Nashville Tenn.
P. 1
9-17-55

NEW YORK, Sept. 8. — Thurgood Marshall, head of the N A A C P legal department, has assigned lawyers on his staff to gather all the facts in the brutal slaying of 14- year-old Emmett Louis Till in Mississippi and to explore every possible angle for legal action.

"We cannot afford to leave any stone unturned in our effort to secure justice in this case," Mr. Marshall said. "But, equally important is our responsibility to everything humanly possible to prevent a repitition of this gruesome crime."

Meanwhile the NAACP continued its effort to arouse public sentiment against the forces in Mississippi which encouraged the development of a climate of opinion in which such a brutal insensate murder could be perpetrated.

Truman Comments On Till Lynching

Defender
Chicago Ill.
P. 1 & 2
9-17-55

Former President, Harry S. Truman, queried Friday about the recent lynching of Chicagoan, 14-year-old Emmett Louis Till, down in Mississippi, said: "I regret that I do not know the facts, but while President, I acted to the best interests of the people."

Truman was in town to address a luncheon, sponsored by the Executive Committee, a Chicago club held at Conrad Hilton hotel.

Truman's secretary, Charles Murphy, said that he was in Washington recently and read of the incident in the newspapers there, but "I never saw a line in the Missouri papers," he added.

8812

'Wolf-Whistle' Killing Trial Opens

Pasfond Times Herald
Washington D.C.

By Art Everett

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 19 (AP)—Two white men, accused of killing a wolf-whistling Negro boy, went on trial in a steamy Mississippi Delta courtroom today, their two-year-old boys in their laps.

Tues. 9-20-55

Flanking each man a few feet from the judge's bench was another slightly older son.

The thin wails of the youngsters, or their childish laughter, cut across the routine hum of court proceedings in the most sensational Delta trial in many years.

Their fathers, Roy Bryant, a 24-year-old cotton country grocery keeper, and his half-brother, J. W. Milam, 36, are accused of the kidnap slaying of 14-year-old Emmett (Bo-Bo) Till, a Chicago Negro boy. He was vacationing in Mississippi last month and was slain after he allegedly made offensive remarks and wolf-whistled at Bryant's attractive 21-year-old wife, Carolyn.

Both defendants have pleaded innocent.

[Sheriff H. C. Strider, who weighs 290 pounds, cleared the crowded courtroom before Judge Curtis Swango entered to take the bench, Chicago Daily News Service reported.

["I want you all to get out of here, and you can come back one by one after my deputies have searched you for weapons," the sheriff announced. "Nobody in this court is going to have a gun but me and my deputies."

[The searching for weapons took more than half an hour, two deputies at the door patting the pockets of veniremen, newsmen, witnesses, and spectators.

[About 300 were finally admitted to the room. Two rear rows were reserved for Negroes. Forty-six Negroes crowded onto these benches.

[There were three press tables with 22 seats for white reporters, and a Jim Crow table for five Negro reporters over in a corner.

[Judge Swango announced that spectators might remove their coats and smoke while court was in session. Many brought lunch and munched on sandwiches.

[Two were observed with cans of beer, which they opened and drank without rebuke from the bailiffs or the court. The judge uncapped a bottle of cola and sipped from it while attorneys fired questions at jurors.]

Both Mrs. Bryant and 27-year-old Juanita Milam were in court.

As the state and the defense went to work picking an all-white, all-male jury, District Attorney Gerald Chatham emphasized he is not asking for the death penalty.

Said the prosecutor: "The state will not ask for the infliction of the death penalty since a substantial part of the state's evidence is circumstantial evidence."

A jury panel of 106 men, mostly cotton farmers and all in shirtsleeves, waited the call of the attorneys, who selected 12 regular jury ment and one alternate. Women are excluded from Mississippi juries. Negroes are eligible, but all prospective jurors in this case were white.

[Two brothers in a family reportedly active in raising funds for the defense were excused from the jury, Chicago Tribune News Service reported. Theye were E. D. and J. B. Nabus, farmers from nearby Phillips, Miss.

[A third juror got the judicial ax when he raised a timid hand in answer to a general inquiry by Special Prosecutor Robert Smith.

["Has any one of you contributed any money to the defense of the man accused of murder in the case?" Smith asked.

[The juror who raised his hand was H. M. Brower, a farmer.

["A gentleman came to my house and said he was collecting money for this trial," Brower said. "I gave him a dollar."]

The Till boy was staying with his great uncle, Mose Wright, 64, a Negro sharecropper in Money, Miss., when kidnaped Aug. 28.

Wright says three white men pounded on his door and, over his protests, took away "the boy from Chicago who did the talk at Money."

Wright is scheduled as the state's star witness. He claims he can identify one of the defendants as a member of the kidnap group. His story of a third man has never been explained.

Till reportedly went into the Bryant grocery and insulted Mrs. Bryant, climaxing his visti with a wolf-whistle at her.

Later, a body identified by the state as Till's was taken out of the Tallahatchie River three miles from Money. The head was beaten and bore a bullet wound. The body was weighted down by a 100-pound cotton gin exhaust fan.

The defense has said it will make the state prove the body was Till's. It reportedly was badly decomposed.

As the district attorney explained it, there are four possible verdicts:

- If the defendants are found guilty as charged, it becomes mandatory on the court to send them to the gas chamber.
- If the jury finds them guilty, but disagrees as to the punishment, life imprisonment is the legal penalty.
- The jury can find the pair guilty and specify in its verdict that the penalty shall be life.
- The jury can acquit the men.



Associated Press

J. W. Milam — Roy Bryant — Mrs. Bryant

. . . central figures in Mississippi trial



Judge Swango — Mrs. Till — Emmet

. . . judge, mother and victim

What Went on in Jury Room During Till Trial?

Did Secret Group Have Room Wired With Electronic Wire Recorder?

NEW YORK—Mississippi's "Black Friday" could be the dawn of a new era for justice in Dixie!

Just what have Courier reporters unearthed in their five-week effort to track down the rumor that a "secret group" of powerful white men has raised a $100,000 "retribution fund" to incite out justice in the South!

Here are some of the things which gain credence as the men continue their investigation.

IT IS BECOMING more and more clear that a "midnight meeting" was held in a mid-town hotel!

It is believed that sentiment of the so-called "group" has crystalized to the point where something of a dramatic, dangerous, and sensational nature, is soon to be disclosed!

There is growing belief that "the group" . . . through electronic devices . . . has in its possession, a wire-recording of what a Courier reporter said in a station wagon and in a Clarksdale, Miss. inn, shortly after the Emmett Till murder trial was concluded.

There is also a growing belief that "the group" has a tape-recording of what went on in the jury room at Sumner, Miss. They are also said to know what was said in the conference rooms for both the prosecution and the defense witnesses . . . and other conferences in the Court House!

AS THE COURIER probe continues, these questions are still unanswered:

(1) Is "the group" organized to investigate all crimes against defenseless Southern Negroes?

(2) Will they try . . . in absentia . . . those against whom the states fail to act?

(3) Will they try . . . in absentia . . . those acquitted by Southern juries?

(4) Has contact been already made with an internationally known secret organization to carry out the penalties handed down by "the group"?

The grand jury at Greenville, Miss. will determine next week, whether to hand down indictments against Bryant and Milam, the two white men freed in the death of Emmett Till.

According to our information, the outcome of this kidnapping charge might set off some type of action.

Negro Religious Leaders Demonstrate at Capital

WASHINGTON, Oct. 24 (AP)—A 32 Chicago Negro religious leaders demonstrated outside the White House Monday against the killing in Mississippi of a 14-year-old Chicago Negro boy, Emmett Louis Till.

The demonstrators were led by Dr. C. W. Harding, pastor of the Victory Baptist Church in Chicago.

Harding said he planned to lead his group from the White House to the Capitol for a demonstration outside the office of Vice President Richard Nixon and a call later upon Atty. Gen. Brownell.

At Nixon's office, Harding said, the demonstrators would demand a special session of Congress to "enact federal anti-poll tax and anti-lynching legislation."

Intervention Urged

He said he would ask Brownell for "federal intervention in the Till case" and for federal action to end "racial disturbances in the Trumbull Park" federal housing unit leased to the city of Chicago.

Harding said some 20 Negro families are now occupants of apartments in the Trumbull Park project, but "subject to continual harassment and assault."

The Chicago minister said the others in the group he brought here were representatives of Chicago churches, including Baptist, Methodist and Church of God.

He said they came here to demonstrate for "justice in the lynching of Emmett Louis Till "by securing federal action to end racial discrimination in America."

Two men were tried for the Till Boy's death. One of them was the husband of a woman at whom witnesses said a young Negro wolf-whistled a few days before his death.

Men Acquitted

The men were acquitted after a jury said it was not satisfied with identification of the body taken from a river. They still face kidnaping charges.

The demonstrators carried placards as they marched around and around on the wide sidewalk outside the White House front lawn. One placard read, "We have waited 336 years for equal rights." Another read "Down with the cotton curtain." Three separate placards were carried reading "We will never forget Emmett Till," "W will never forget Reverend George Lee," and "We will never forget Lamar Smith."

Harding said both Le and Smith were Negroes "shot down" in Mississippi earlier this year "for registering to vote." Harding said the demonstration was sponsored by the Afro-American Congress of Christian Organizations, of (4747 Cottage Grove) Chicago.

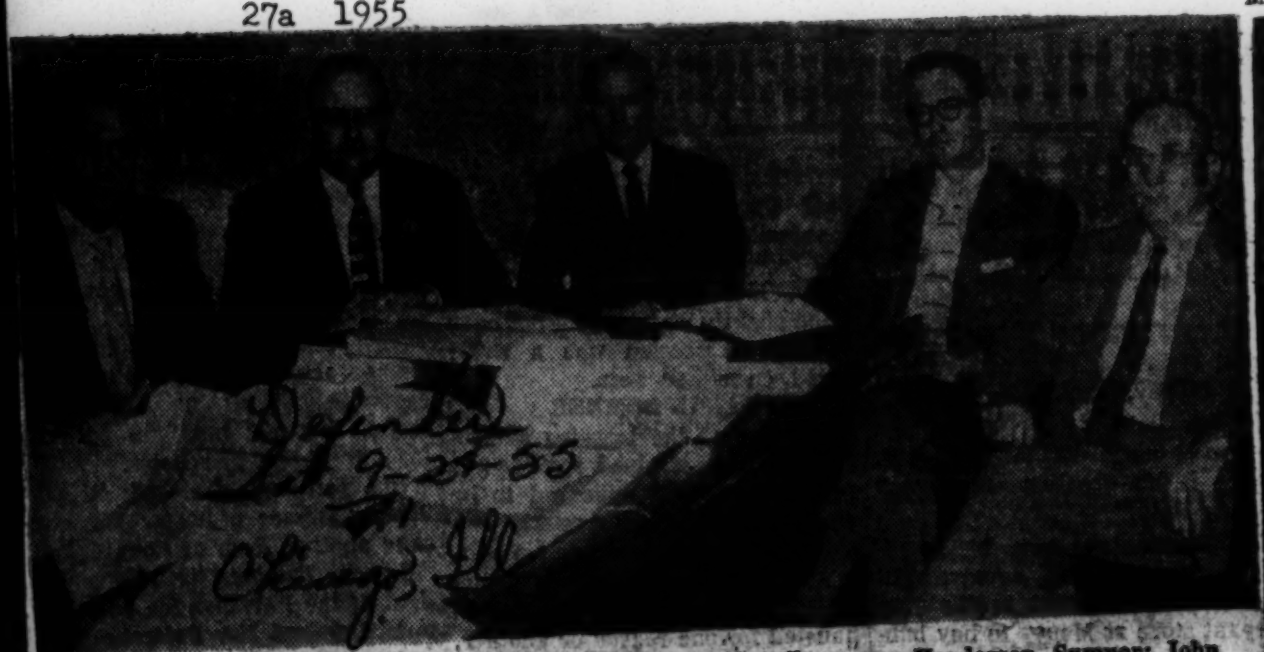
Willie Reed Owes Hospital Bill

Willie Reed, 18-year-old witness in the Emmett L. Till murder case in Sumner, Miss., is convalescing at the home of his mother, Mrs. Edith Thomas since his release from Michael Reese hospital a few days ago.

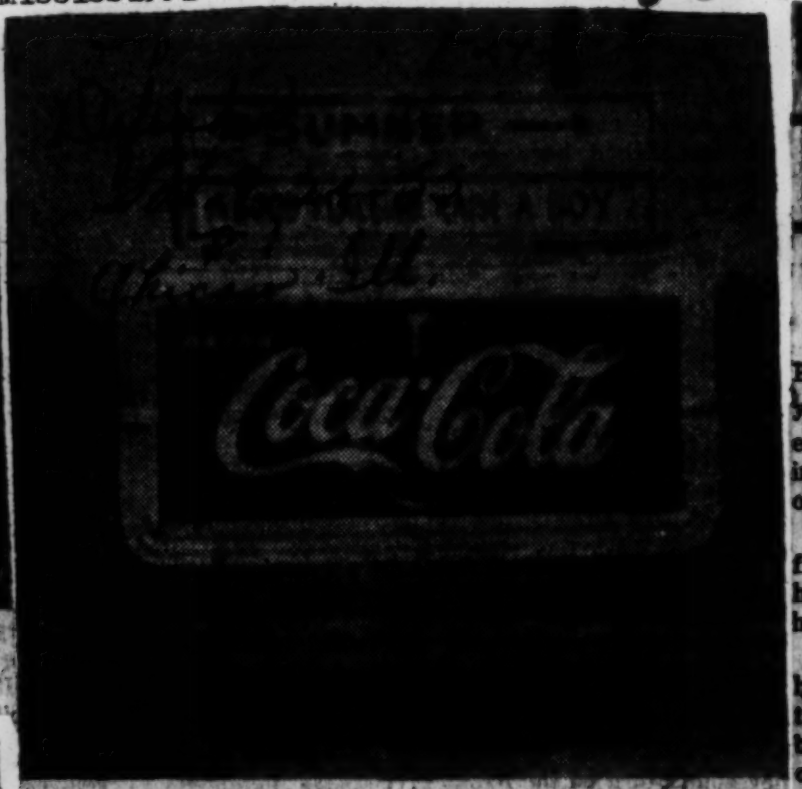
The youth who had to flee from Mississippi after testifying that he saw young Till on J. W. Milam's place, is suffering from ulcers and is in need.

Dr. William E. Cunningham who administered to him while he was in the hospital, and Dr. N. O. Calloway who has been looking after him since his release from the hospital, have given thei. services free, but the youth owes a $263.25 hospital bill which he has no way of paying.

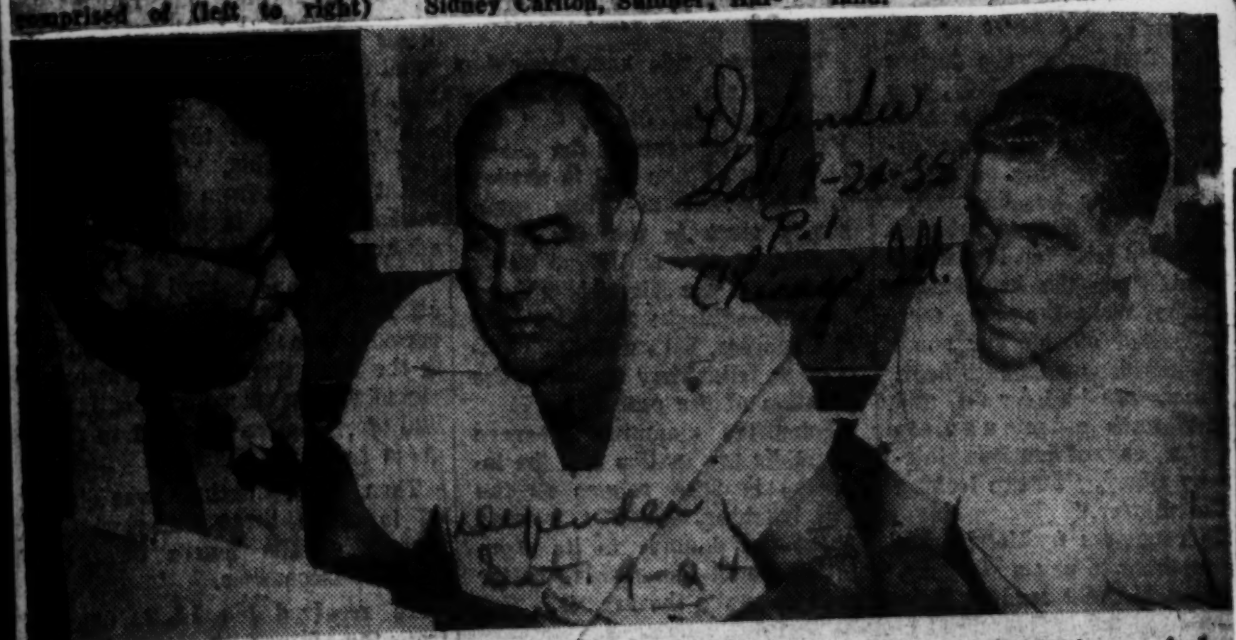
Unemployed, Reed is not able to work at present, but might be able to do light work in about 10 more days, said Dr. Calloway. His ulcers, the medic said, are partly due to nervousness and mental strain.



THE DEFENSE — Defense battery in Till murder case is comprised of (left to right) Attys. J. W. Kellum of Tutwiler, with offices in Sumner; C. Sidney Carlton, Sumner; Harvey Henderson, Sumner; John W. Whitten, jr., and J. J. Breland.



"A GOOD PLACE TO RAISE A BOY" — That's what the sign says of Sumner, Miss., where two men are on trial in the Emmett L. Till murder case.



THE DEFENDANTS — J. W. Milam (center) and Roy Bryant (right) indicted for the murder of Emmett Till, confer with one of their five attorneys, Sidney Carlton, in Sumner, Miss. The trial was scheduled to open Monday, in Sumner. Photo by INP.



GERALD CHATHAM R. B. SMITH, III
PROSECUTORS in the Emmett Till murder case.

Ready For Till's Mom To Testify

SUMNER, Miss. — Mrs. Mamie Bradley of Chicago, mother of young Emmett Till who was lynched here recently will testify during the trial of two men accused of the crime.

Dist. Atty. Gerald Chatham confirmed just before the trial opened here Monday that he had "invited" her to testify.

He explained that she could only be invited since she was outside the state. A subpoena has already been issued and was to be served on her upon her arrival here. This will make her appearance at the trial mandatory.

Atty. Chatham stated that there was no need for fear on her part in coming to Mississippi. He stated that there would be no need for her to bring detectives from Chicago for her protection.

"Uncle Mose (Mose Wright uncle of the late Till) probably should have been more apprehensive than she, but he has attended every hearing to which he was summoned in the case and is going about his daily duties" he said.

Mose Wright has a bumper crop of cotton and is determined to harvest it before leaving Money, Miss.

He is aware of possible danger to his life and as of last week was not staying over-night in his humble home, but from one neighbor's house to another.

The Prosecution

HERNANDO, Miss. — The 40 year-old prosecutor for the Emmett L. Till case is a deliberate straight talking man with a serious mein and a kindly look in his piercing eyes. You have probably heard of him and will be reading and hearing quite a bit more.

He is District Attorney Gerald Chatman, of Hernando, Miss., who leaves one with the impression that his burden is heavy, but that he is determined to follow through with it.

Tall broad-shouldered and heavy-set, he had the dignity befitting a man of his profession. His conversational speech reflects culture.

In addition to the answer he gives to the questions asked, one notes three things about him (1) the alertness and steadiness of his eyes as he speaks directly (2) the sincerety in the overtones and undertones of his voice (3) the cautious fluency of his reply.

TO DO RIGHT THING

When asked to comment on the opinion prevalent that the trial would be whitewashed he said: "I am leaving office in December because of ill health and on the advice of my doctor. I am going to do what is right in this case," he emphasized.

He added: "I am not going to do anything that is a departure from my record." Chatman was extremely modest about commenting on his record with regard to Negroes during his long tenure of service.

"I suggest," he said, "that you talk with any of your people who know me. Better still, I tell you what to do. Talk with Sam P. Nesbitt, of the NAACP here."

A check about the community and in Memphis, which is only about 30 miles from Hernando, revealed that he is highly respected for his fairness.

Chatman has served as district attorney for 14 years, the longest period any one has held the office in the third district. He first completed the unexpired term of Jamie Whitten, who was elected to Congress from the district.

Then, Atty. Chatham was elected to office three times without opposition. His fourth term expires in December.

He received his LL.B. degree from the University of Mississippi in 1931. Married now 23 years, he is the father of four children. His father-in-law, Herbert Holmes, is Chancery court judge.

GETS GOOD ASSISTANTS

District Attorney Chatman, due to ill health, will be assisted in his prosecution of the Till case by a lawyer described as brilliant and outstanding in the field.

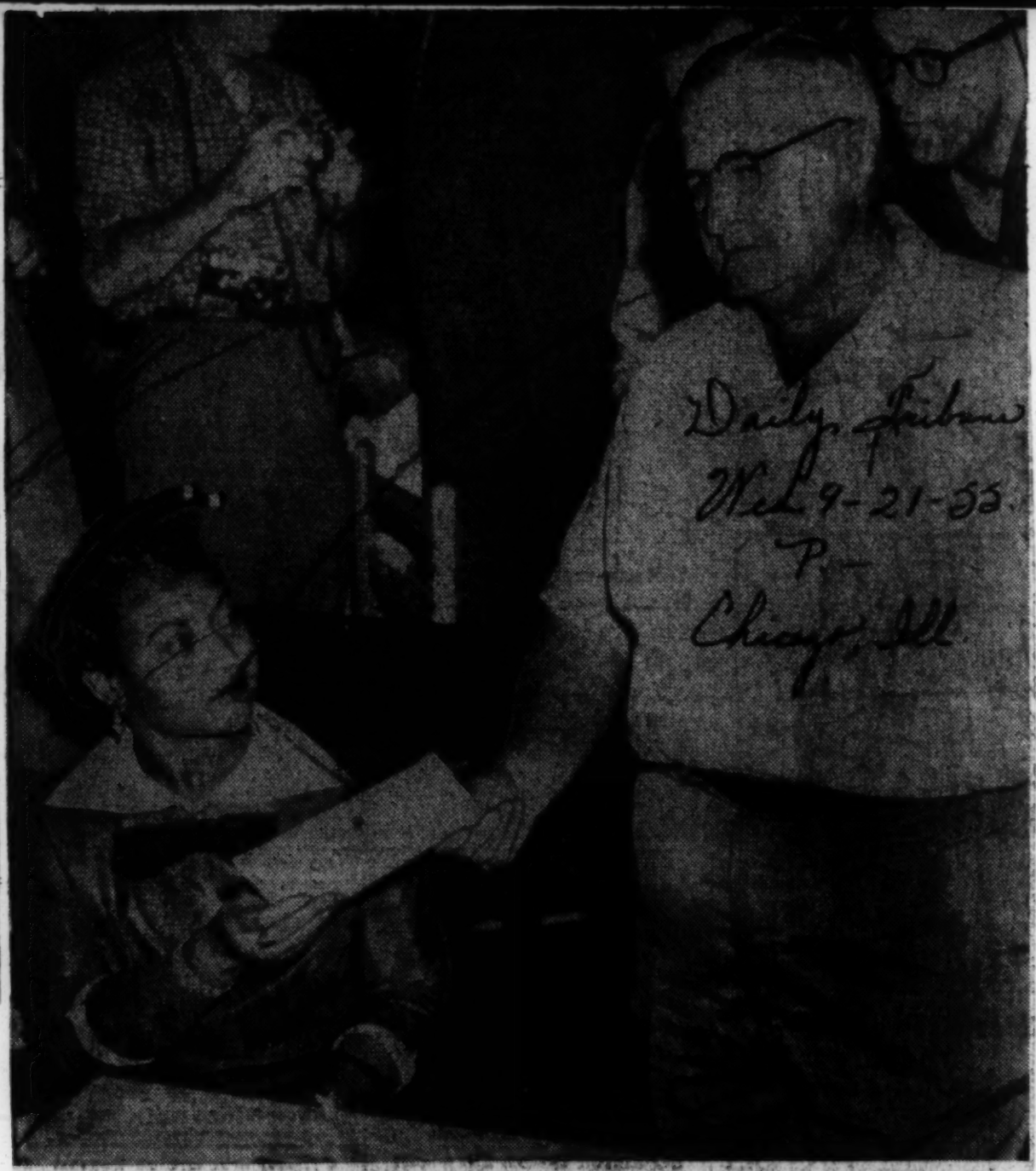
He is Special Asst. Dist. Atty. Gen. Robert B. Smith III, of Ripley, Miss. Smith is a former FBI man and was appointed by Gov. Hugh White.

Asked whether any Negroes would be impaneled to serve on the jury, Atty. Chatman said "there is not a qualified Negro elector in Tallahatchie County. Only qualified electors are called for jury service."

He pointed out that a venire of 165 men were being called for service, from which 12 would be selected for duty. Each one of the 12 will be checked thoroughly by the prosecution he said.

Chatham stated that he and his assistant, Atty. Smith III as of Sept. 31 had not decided on whether they would ask for the maximum penalty.

Added late Saturday to the prosecution was Hamilton Caldwell, for four terms attorney for Tallahatchie county. He is a native of Charleston, Miss., where he now resides.



[Associated Press Wirephoto]

Mrs. Mamie Bradley, Chicago mother of slain Emmett Till, getting subpena from sheriff as a witness after arrival in trial courtroom at Sumner, Miss., yesterday.

8814

Moscow Press Describes Miss. 'Reign Of Terror'

Peoples p. 4

By ETHEL L. PAYNE

WASHINGTON — The new look in diplomacy, at least for the present, is one of cautious but flowering friendship with our old enemy, the USSR.

The President at his first news conference since he returned from Geneva indicated that there would be more exchange between Russia and the United States in cultural relations, and he may even visit the Soviet Union himself.

Chicago Ill

In Iowa, some visiting Russian farmers went to church and got smothered in American hospitality. So nobody seems to be mad or afraid to say "Hi Comradski" with a careful look over the shoulder these days.

7-8-6-55

The climate is warm and mellow, but the propaganda war goes on and events in the U. S. reported on in Russia point up the impressions we are making abroad and the big job ahead domestically to correct the conditions which give fuel for propaganda.

At Bandung, your Defender correspondent was billeted next door to the Moscow correspondent for the London Daily Worker, Valentina Scott. Cards were exchanged and a fortnight ago, letter with a clipping from Pravda, arrived. The translation done at the Library of Congress shows the kind racial prejudice get in the Soviet Union.

The Pravda article was written by A. Vladimirov and the translation by Dr. Fritz Epstein of the library Staff. It follows:

"Liberty a la American:"

CITE LYNCHINGS

The lynching of Negroes, the confining of Indians to reservations, the treatment of Italians, Chinese, and generally, persons of foreign nationality as 'sub - humans,' have become an integral trend in the much-praised 'American way of life.' The rulers of the American 'master race' state tolerate especially the cruel treatment meted out to the Negroes by the reactionaries.

According to the paper, the New York Post in the state of Mississippi, the Negro minister, George Lee, who in the town of Belzoni had been the head of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, fell victim to race mauraders.

QUOTES ARTICLE

The foul murder was committed by members of the racial organization, 'Council of Whites,' created in 1954 in answer to the decision — arrived at under pressure of the masses — by the Supreme court of the USA about the unconstitutionality of the segregation (separation) of Negro children in school. The 'Council of Whites' terrorized the Negro population of the state by threats and violence.

The Negro paper, Defender, published in Chicago wrote that racial hooligans left a notice in a Negro club which said: 'You swarthy, think that you will go to the polls, but this will never happen. (the word swarthy must have been a substitution for the more familiar derogatory term used in Mississippi either with the Russians or the interpreter). This notice will show you what to expect if you try.'

By this threat, the race haters wished to influence even those few Negroes who were admitted to the polls, in spite of all the obstacles of legislation and all kinds of election qualifications against making use of their rights to participate in the elections. To this group of Negroes belonged Lee.

The New York Post reports that 12 hours before his death Lee said that he had been asked to delete his name from the register of voters, but that he had answered that "he intended to vote in spite of the threats.'

That night a group of unrestrained bandits, feeling that they could act with complete impunity, decided to deal summarily with the Negro who dared to insist on exercising his right which so pompously is proclaimed by the American constitution. Lee was abducted in an automobile and killed.

As the paper, Defender, remarked, citizens in Belzoni who as bystanders witnessed the injustice inflicted upon Lee 'did not wish to speak because they feared for their lives.' The killing of Lee was part of a broad attack by the reactionaries on the rights of Negroes.

According to declarations of Clarence Mitchell, head of the Washington Branch of the NAACP, a system has been worked out in the state of Mississippi according to which a Negro who wants to participate in voting will be laid off, if after paying the poll tax and registering, he does not destroy the receipt.

The bandits of the state of Mississippi are not alone in their criminal actions. They receive support not only from local authorities who accord them complete freedom, but also from certain Congressmen, Eastland, the Democratic Senator from Mississippi, in planning a general anti-Negro campaign sponsored by the State Council of Whites has led attacks against the Supreme Court because it made the decision forbidding segregation in schools.

The murder of Lee permits us once more to see the American pseudo-democracy in its whole abominable nakedness. The Negro people answer the attack of the race haters with the resolution to fight for their rights.

Chicagoans Ask Probe Of Till Lynch-Murder

Fri. 11-11-55

Birmingham

WASHINGTON (ANP)—A Chicago delegation of church people called upon high government officials last week to investigate the kidnaping and killing of Emmett Louis Till in Mississippi and to take action to end racial discrimination.

VAIN ATTEMPTS

The group of 32 persons representing the Afro-American Congress of Christian Organizations made vain attempts to see Vice President Nixon and Atty. Gen. Brownell.

They picketed the White House for two hours carrying signs which read, "A Christian Crusade for Equal Rights," "Give Us Liberty-Noth Death," "Down With the Cotton Curtain," and "We Died in Korea, We Demand to Live Here."

Leaving the White House, they journeyed to Capitol Hill where they had been promised an appointment with Robert King, administrative assistant to the Vice President.

Upon their arrival, under heavy police guard, they were forced to stand in the corridor at the Senate Office Building with only two persons admitted to the Vice President's office. There they were informed that King had been called to the White House for a conference and there was nobody in authority for them to talk with.

ANTI-LYNCHING

The two representatives of the group left a verbal message with one of the receptionists, Miss Dorothy Cox, to be passed on to proper authorities. The message was a simple request that the Vice President call an extra session of Congress to pass anti-lynching and anti-poll tax laws.

Traveling by chartered bus from the Capitol to the Justice department, the delegation was followed by three cars bearing policemen and plainclothesmen and six motorcycle police.

At the Justice Department they were held in the corridor under heavy uniformed building-guards and municipal policemen while only six were permitted to talk with A. B. Caldwell, chief of the Civil Rights Division.

These spokesmen reported to the group that they were no more satisfied after talking to Caldwell than they were before. "We are still dissatisfied, discontented and angry," stated Augustus Savage, editor of the American Negro magazine.

Miss. Governor Promises Full 'Lynch Probe

Informer

Sat. 9-10-55

Jackson

GREENWOOD, Miss. (NNPA)—Governor Hugh White of Mississippi Thursday promised a complete investigation and full prosecution of persons responsible for the kidnap-murder of a 14-year old colored Chicago boy, whose body was found Wednesday in the Tallahatchie River.

Governor White issued his statement in Jackson, the capital of Mississippi, after conferring with officials of Tallahatchie and Le Flore counties.

Sheriff, Deputy Say Men Admit Kidnapping Youth



TRIAL PRINCIPALS—Mrs. Mamie Bradley, mother of Emmett L. Till, Chicago Negro youth found slain three weeks ago, is shown in Sumner, Miss., courtroom as she talked with her uncle, Mose Wright at the trial of two white men accused in Till's death. The prosecution has said both will testify as State witnesses. (AP Wirephoto)

But Half-Brothers Deny In Statement That They Killed Negro Boy

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 21 (AP)—A county sheriff and his deputy said today two white half-brothers admitted kidnaping a Chicago Negro boy last month but denied in the same statement that they killed the lad.

Over vigorous defense objections, Sheriff George Smith testified at the murder trial of Roy Bryant, 24, and J. W. Milam, 36, that he talked to Bryant about the abduction of 14-year-old Emmett (Bobo) Till.

"I asked him about going down and getting the little Negro boy," Smith told a hushed courtroom, "and he said he went down and got him to let his wife identify him. His wife said it wasn't the boy and he turned him loose."

Three days before young Till was abducted from the cottonfield shack of his uncle Aug. 28, he had allegedly made indecent remarks and gestures to Bryant's pretty 21-year-old wife, Carolyn.

Smith was followed to the witness stand by one of the deputies, John E. Cothran. He said he questioned Milam about the disappearance of young Till.

"I asked him if they went about and got the boy," Cothran continued.

"He said yes but they turned him loose."

Before this testimony could be introduced to the jury, Circuit Judge Curtis Swango spent some time listening to defense objections with the jury out of the room. Eventually, however, the judge permitted both men to testify before the jury about the purported admission of abduction.

Smith said Bryant told him he turned the boy loose in front of crossroads of Bryant's country store in nearby Money, Miss., 2.8 miles from the cottonfield shack where the Chicago boy was vacationing. This would be sometime around 3 a.m., he said.

"Were you offered any explanation as to why he didn't return him," Sheriff Smith was asked.

"He said he figured the boy knew his way back," Smith replied.

The defense in cross examination sought to show that Bryant and Milam were misled into their statements in casual chats with authorities which the defendants considered confidential.

During the afternoon session, which was recessed for the night at 4:33 p.m. CST, Robert Hodges, 17-year-old fisherman, and B. L. Mims testified to discovering and examining the Till boy's body in the Tallahatchie River Aug. 31. Both men live in the area where the body was found and Mims operates an outboard motorboat in the area.

They said the boy's legs were visible above the water but the rest of the body was weighted down by the heavy cotton gin exhaust fan.

Cothran, during his appearance on the witness stand, identified the large cumbersom fan which was placed on exhibit in the court. He said it was clogged with mud when taken out of the river and weighed about 140 pounds. When cleaned of mud, he added, it weighed about half that much.

Condition of Body.

The state spent a good deal of time asking Cothran about the condition of Till's body when taken from the river. He said the head "was torn up pretty bad." The left side above the ear was crushed, there were wounds on the top and front and there was a hole over the right ear. He declined, however, to compare the hole in the head to a bullet wound or any other specific object.

Asked if other parts of the body were mutilated, Cothran said no.

Under cross-examination, Cothran was asked by defense lawyer Sidney Carlton whether he warned Milam in advance of taking the oral statement from him that he was under arrest and anything he might say would be used against him.

"No, sir," Cothran said, "I asked him if they carried that boy off. He said they carried him up to Roy Bryant's store and talked to him and let him go."

Turning to the hole over the ear, Carlton asked:

"In your best judgment could that hole have been made by snags in the river?"

"It could have been," he replied.

"Had the boy's privates been mutilated?" Carlton continued.

"No, sir," Cothran replied.

Cothran testified under cross-examination that while Mose Wright believed the body was that of young Till, the sharecropper remarked at one time, "I could be mistaken, that might not be him."

But Cothran added that Wright made that remark when the body was face down in the boat. Cothran described the body as well developed and when asked if he could describe how old the body was he replied:

"I wouldn't."

On Aug. 31, the boy's body was found in the muddy Tallahatchie River about 15 miles from Money. Till had been shot in the head. The body was nude and weighted with a 100-pound cotton gin exhause fan.

Meanwhile in neighboring Sunflower County, Dist. Atty. Stanny Sanders said a Negro doctor had told him two Negro men, last seen in company of Till, had disappeared.

Sanders said he was investigating a statement by Dr. T. R. M. Howard of Mound Bayou that the slaying of Till probably took place in a headquarters shed on a plantation near Drew in Sunflower County.

Dr. Howard said he could produce four or five witnesses who saw four white men and three Negroes, including Till, enter the shed in the early hours of Aug. 28. A pickup truck left the shed later with only the white men, the physician said.

He said the two missing Negroes were plantation workers Leroy Collins and Henry Lee Loggins.

uve sent a letter to Atty. Gen. Herbert Brownell asking for federal intervention.

Rogers admitted, however, he thought the failure of law officials to bring to justice the slayers of Till is a "real black mark."

3,000 Write U.S. About Till Case

WASHINGTON — Despite having received 3,000 letters asking federal government intervention in the Emmett L. Till case the government is powerless to step into the case, a deputy U. S. attorney general said last week.

"We just have no authority to step into a state if we think there is failure in the administration of justice," Deputy Atty. Gen. William P. Rogers said in a television interview.

Arthur Caldwell, chief of the civil rights section of the attorney general's office in Washington, supported Rogers, saying the department's hands are tied since no federal law has been violated.

The statements by both Rogers and Caldwell came in the wake of a request by Gov. Stratton that the federal government step in the case. The Illinois chief execu-

8815

Sheriff Says Grocer Admitted Till Kidnap

Washington Post & Times Herald

Thurs. 9-22-55

By Paul Holmes
Chicago Tribune Press Service

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 21 Testimony that Royal Bryant had admitted abducting Emmett Till, 14, Chicago Negro, went into the record in the absence of the jury at the murder trial today of Bryant, 24, and J. W. Milam, 36, his half-brother.

The testimony was given by Sheriff George Smith of Leflore County, in which Till's kidnaping took place early Aug. 28. Smith said he went to Bryant's grocery store at the town of Money on the afternoon of Aug. 28 and questioned him.

"Bryant told me that he went down to the house and got him (Till) and took him up to the store and found out he wasn't the right one, and that he turned him loose," the sheriff asserted.

It was in the Bryant store that young Till allegedly "wolf-whistled" at Carolyn Bryant, 21-year-old wife of the co-defendant, on Aug. 24.

Whether the sheiff will be allowed to repeat his testimony in front of the jury will await a ruling by Judge Curtis Swango as soon as the state is able to prove that Till was slain. Till's body was found Aug. 31 in the Tallahatchie River.

Judge Swango excused the jury at the demand of defense attorneys after ruling that no proof of murder has been produced. However, he indicated that Smith's testimony may be received after these technical preliminaries are out of the way and denied a defense contention that what Bryant said to the sheriff was a confidential communication.

Uncle Tells of Kidnaping

Moses Wright, 64, called "Uncle Mose" by prosecution questioners and plain "Mose" by the defense, was the first witness for the state. It was from Wright's unpainted cabin in cotton fields near Money that Till was taken.

Wright told of the arrival at his cabin at 2 a. m. on Aug. 28 of a kidnap party which consisted of two men who entered the house, another who stayed on the front porch, and a fourth person in a car who may have been a woman.

The sharecropper pointed at Bryant and Milam when asked if he could identify the men who came into his house. On cross examination, however, he wavered on his identification.

Wright said he had heard that Till had "been doing some talking down at Money," so he knew when white men came to his door that the party probably wanted Till.

He said one of the men called out "This is Mr. Bryant. We want to talk to you and that boy."

He stepped out on the porch, he said, and saw a man he now recognizes as Milam standing with a pistol in one hand a flashlight in the other, while the person who had called himself Bryant was standing behind Milam.

Boy Is Awakened

Wright said the third man on the porch kept his hands over his face and "acted a little like he was a colored man."

Wright said he led two of the visitors to a bedroom where Till was sleeping with Wright's son, Simeon, 10.

"Milam woke Till up and told him to get dressed," Wright continued. The boy sat on the edge of the bed and put on a shirt, trousers, and shoes. The men led him out through the front bedroom where my wife and I had been sleeping. My wife got up and I told her to get back to bed . . . As the men left, I called I would pay them whatever they wanted to let the boy go, but there was no answer."

Wright said he heard the kidnapers call to someone in a car parked under his persimmon tree, "Is this the boy?" and that a voice came back, "Yes." He said " it seemed a little lighter than a man's voice."

Claims Body Was Till's

Wright said the only light in his cabin during the kidnaping was from Milam's flashlight and admitted he never got a look at the face of the man who called himself Bryant. He insisted he saw Milam's features, however, but admitted on cross-examination that he told defense lawyers a week ago that the only basis of his identification of Milam was the fact he was a large man and bald-headed.

Wright was firm in identifying the body taken from the river as that of Till. He said the body was naked and that there was a silver ring on one of the fingers which he has since learned was once the property of Till's father, Louis Till, who died overseas in World War II.

Chester A. Miller, Negro undertaker, who examined the body when it was brought ashore, said several feet of barbed wire were wrapped around the neck. He also described a cotton gin fan pulley used to weight the body.

The state failed to get from Miller testimony regarding the cause of death. Miller said there was a hole like a bullet hole in the head, but admitted he did not know whether the hole had been made before or after death.

New Witnesses Revealed

First confirmation in court of reports that the state had been searching for new witnesses came when J. J. Breland of defense counsel read out the names of five persons newly-subpenaed by the prosecution.

The names were those of Mondy Bradley, Walter Billips, Edd Reed, Willie Reed, and Frank Young.

It was reported that these are the socalled "shadow witnesses" sought last night in adjacent Sunflower County. It was to give the state opportunity to find these witnesses that Judge Swango omitted an afternoon court session yesterday, the first day of the trial.

Smith and Gerald Chatham, district attorney, had said the witnesses are "of major importance" to the state's case.

Witnesses Vanish

[According to Associated Press, Sunflower County District Attorney Stanny Sanders said a Negro doctor told him two Negro men, last seen in company of Till, had disappeared.

[Sanders said he was investigating a statement by Dr. T. R. M. Howard of Mound Bayou that the slaying of Till probably took place in a headquarters shed on a plantation near Drew in Sunflower County.

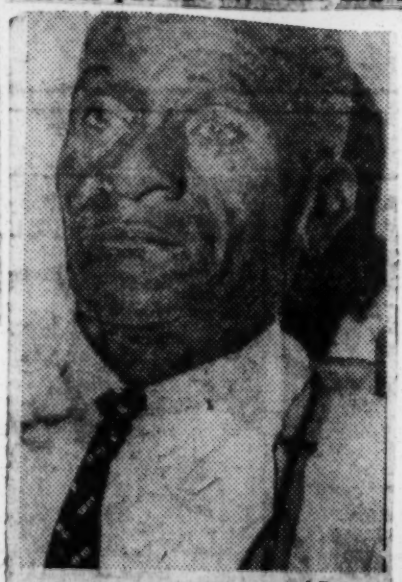
[Dr. Howard said he could produce four or five witnesses who saw four white men and three Negroes, including Till, enter the shed in the early hours of Aug. 28. A pickup truck left the shed later with only the white men, the physician said.]

Mrs. Bryant is expected to be the most important witness for the defense. A warrant charging her with kidnaping was obtained by Sheriff Smith, but has never been served. Defense counsel said the sheriff became convinced Mrs. Bryant had nothing to do with the abduction and took it upon himself to hold up service. As a witness in the trial, Smith is isolated with other witnesses in the grand jury room here.



United Press

This wooden cross was found ablaze by Night Marshal L. E. McNeer in Sumner, Miss., scene of the Till murder trial. McNeer put out the blaze and blamed it on a crackpot.



Associated Press

MOSE WRIGHT
. . . first witness at Sumner

Woman Says Negro 'Seized' Her in Store

Washington Post & Times Herald

Fri. 9-23-55

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 22 (AP)—The woman in the "wolf-whistle" murder case testified today that a Negro grabbed her as well as whistled at her in a country store a week before Emmett Till, 14, was found dead in the river.

P. 16

Judge Curtis Swango ruled the testimony of pretty Mrs. Roy Bryant inadmissible for jury consideration because previous testimony about events at the store referred only to the "boy that did the talking."

Mrs. Bryant's husband and his half-brother were on trial on charges of murdering Till in the belief he was the Negro who accosted her.

This ruling apparently blocked the defense's plan to show that a physical assault was made on Mrs. Bryant, and when the jury came back it presented other evidence.

State's Case Rested

The State had rested its case earlier this afternoon after witnesses told of a boy resembling Till being taken to a barn where outcries later emerged and of one of the defendants being at th scene. In earlier testimony a Negro witness told how the defendants abducted the boy early in the morning of Aug. 28.

Mrs. Bryant said the Negro asked "How about a date, baby?" when he grabbed her, used an unprintable word and bragged of having gone out with white women.

She was followed to the stand by Mrs. J. W. Milam, wife of the other defendant, who said she was in the rear of the store at the time. She was asked only questions about her family and her husband's war record.

Sheriff H. C. Strider of Tallahatchie County, where the trial is being held, then testified that the body he saw taken from the Tallhatchie River appeared to have been there "at least 10 days if not 15." The body was found seven days after Till's disappearance. But the boy's mother testified earlier today that the body sent home to Chicago for burial was definitely that of her son.

Human Body, He Says

But Strider said he could not tell "for sure whether the body was that of a Negro—all that I could tell was that it was a human being."

The body was pulled from the river with his head battered and a bullet hole in it, and a chunk of mill machinery around his neck to weight it down.

The judge sent the jury out of the room while Mrs. Bryant testified. Her story was taken for the record at the defense's request.

She said she was in the store alone when the Negro entered. He bought some candy and grabbed her hand "with full force," she said, when she held it out for the money.

Mrs. Bryant said she pulled away and started to the back of the store but the Negro "caught me at the cash register around the waist."

"Did he say anything?" asked Defense Attorney Sidney Carlton.

"Yes, he said, 'What's the matter baby, can't you take it?" The witness replied. She said the Negro also asked her for a date and uttered an "unprintable word."

He also bragged, she said, of "having been with white women before."

Pulled Outside, She Says

Another Negro then came in the store and pulled the first Negro outside, she said, but he did not go "peacefully."

From the outside, she continued, the young Negro made a noise that "sounded like a whistle."

Carlton gave his version of a wolf-whistle and Mrs. Bryant said "yes," it sounded like that.

The State rested its case early this afternoon after an uneasy witness told of seeing a young Negro resembling Till being taken to a barn, from which the sound of blows and cries of pain then emerged. The witness said one of the defendants later left the barn, a pistol strapped to his side.

The prosecution closed out its case against defendants Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam shortly after the noon recess was over.

The State put on the stand just two additional witnesses after noon, both of whom substantiated the testimony of Willie Reed, 18-year-old Negro farmhand.

Young Reed told of going to a grocery store the morning of Aug. 28, of seeing a truck pass by with passengers including a man he said was Milam. In the back, he said, were three Negroes, one of whom resembled a picture of young Till.

Heard "Hollering," He Says

Down the road, he said, he passed a barn. He said the truck was parked in front of the building, empty. He said he heard someone "'hollering" from within the barn, then saw Milam come out to get a dink of water at awell. He said Milam had a pistol.

Add Reed, 65-year-old grandfather of Willie, and Mary Bradley, 50, who lives near the Sunflower County farm where the barn was situated, were the final State witnesses.

The defendants have admitted they abducted Till but said they let him go when they discovered they had picked up the "wrong" Negro.

Willie Reed was the first of four "surprise" witnesses summoned from Sunflower County on the basis of new evidence that produced a delay in the start of testimony in the 4-day-old trial.

Defense Attorney J. J. Breland argued vigorously that the Reed testimony was "not related in any way to the disappearance of Emmett Till or to the location of a body." He failed to get the testimony excluded, however, or to get a directed verdict of acquittal for Bryant. The attorney said Bryant "has not been connected in any way with the disappearance of Emmett Till."

No Venue Change Move

Moses Wright testified yesterday that Milam was the man who came to get Till, but he said Bryant waited outside.

Although Sunflower County is a separate court jurisdiction, prosecutor Gerald Chatham said no attempt would be made to change the venue of the case since it was not determined in which county Till actually was slain.

Till's mother was composed when she began her testimony, but broke into sobs when shown a photograph of the body, the head battered and with a bullet hole in it.

"I looked it all over and very thoroughly," she said. "I knew beyond the shadow of a doubt it was my son."

She also identified a ring taken from the body as one that had belonged to Till's father, who was killed in World War II. She said he wore the ring when he went to Mississippi Aug. 20 to visit Wright.

Both defense and state addressed the mother as "Mamie."

While the jury was out of hearing Mrs. Bradley said she had warned Emmett before he left that he would have to "adopt a new way of life" when he went south, that he should not get in fights with white boys and he should "get on his knees" if necessary to avoid trouble.



Atlanta Ga Journal June 9-15-55

Associated Press Wirephoto

CENTRAL FIGURE IN TILL MURDER—Sumner, Miss., Sept. 15—Mrs. Roy Bryant, left, is the one to whom a 14-year-old Chicago Negro reportedly directed "some remarks" and a "wolf" whistle while in Mrs. Bryant's store at Money, Miss. The husband of Mrs. Bryant and the husband of Mrs. J. W. Milam, right, go on trial Sept. 19 for murder in the death of the Negro youth, Emmett Till, whose body was found Aug. 31 in the Tallahatchie River weighted down with a heavy piece of cotton gin equipment.

8816

Slain Boy's Mother Is Asked to Testify

By the United Press.

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 8.—Mississippi authorities today asked the mother of Emmett Till to testify at the trial of two white men charged with the "wolf whistle" murder of the 14-year-old Negro boy.

District Attorney Gerald Chatham said he would send a telegram today to Mrs. Mamie Bradley, 33, of Chicago, promising her "any reasonable protection she might feel that she needs" if she will appear on the witness stand.

Mr. Chatham said he considered her testimony an important link in the state's kidnap-murder case against half brothers Roy Bryant, 30, and J. W. Milam, 36, charged with slaying the boy for "insulting" Bryant's young wife.

Mr. Chatham said he also wanted to inform Mrs. Bradley of "my personal regret and the regret of the state concerning the unfortunate death of her son.

Mr. Chatham and C. Carlton Sidney, one of the five defense attorneys, yesterday said they wanted to begin trial as quickly as possible. Mr. Sidney said the defense will not try to gain any delays.

Circuit Judge Curtis M. Swango Jr. had called a meeting of the attorneys today to decide upon a trial date but postponed the conference because of a slight illness. Judge Swango said he expected to return to his bench Friday.

Bryant and Milam are accused of dragging the boy at gunpoint from the home of a relative he was visiting Aug. 28, bludgeoning and shooting him to death, and dumping the body into a river in Tallahatchie County.

They admitted kidnaping the boy after someone among a group of Negro teen-agers insulted Bryant's wife at a country store the day before, but claimed they released him unharmed after deciding he was not "the one."

N.A.A.C.P. Asks Aid in Mississippi

Calls on U. S. To Protect Negroes

WASHINGTON, Sept. 7 (U.P.)—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People called on the Department of Justice today to act immediately to halt what it labeled a "state of jungle fury" in Mississippi.

In a formal petition, the association said the Mississippi White Citizens Council has created an atmosphere of violence that has led to the murder of three Negroes, hundreds of threats, a drastic reduction in Negro voting and countless instances of intimidation.

"This clearly calls for prompt and effective action by the Federal government," the petition said. "Every moment of delay compounds the national shame."

The statement was handed to Assistant Attorney General Warren Olney 3d, head of the department's criminal division, by Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the N. A. A. C. P. Clarence Mitchell, Washington representative, and other officials of the organization were present.

Specifically, the petition charged that the White Citizens Council began generating an open reign of terror in Mississippi more than eight months ago.

It said this has led to the "wanton" killing of Emmett Louis Till, fourteen-year-old Chicago Negro, on Aug. 29; the "murder" of the Rev. George W. Lee, of Belzoni, Miss, on May 7, and the shooting of Lamar Smith in Lincoln County, Miss., on Aug. 13.

"The Federal government cannot escape responsibility by shifting the obligation to the State of Mississippi, which has indicated neither a willingness nor desire to apprehend and punish the criminal killers or their respectable fronts," the statement said.

The N. A. A. C. P. also charged that Mississippi permitted an open campaign of race hatred to be fanned "white-hot" during the state governorship elections this summer.

Attorney General Herbert Brownell jr. announced Sept. 1 that the government is investigating the Mississippi elections to see if Negroes were deprived of any constitutional rights. He promised "immediate and vigorous" action if such violations were found.

The department has said it has no jurisdiction to investigate the death of young Till who allegedly was slain after he whistled at a white woman. It has announced it is making an inquiry to see if it has jurisdiction in the Lee and Smith cases.

A Mississippi Grand Jury yesterday indicted two white half-brothers on charges of murdering Till. But the N. A. A. C. P. charged today: "Already it is evident that an attempt will be made to exculpate them of the brutal murder of the lad."

Mr. Mitchell told newsmen he thought the Federal government could find some legal way to act in the Till case.

MISSISSIPPI TRIAL DRAWS NEWS MEN

Slaying of Negro Boy Stirs Wide Interest—Case Opens at Sumner Today

By JOHN N. POPHAM

Special to The New York Times.

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 18—The trial of two Mississippi whites accused of the murder of a 14-year-old Chicago Negro will start tomorrow in this Tallahatchie County courthouse town.

Mississippi's defense of its racial segregation policies and an allegation that the slaying was motivated by a transgression of the local white-supremacy code have stirred widespread interest in the case.

The defendants are Roy Bryant, 24, a country store keeper in Money, and his half-brother, J. W. Milam, 36, of Glendora, who operates two cotton-harvesting machines under contract with plantation owners.

The victim, Emmett Louis Till, was said to have whistled at Mr. Bryant's 21-year-old wife while she was alone in the family's grocery store Aug. 24. Four days later the youth was taken from his uncle's home, and three days after that his body was found in the Tallahatchie River.

On Sept. 6, an all-white county grand jury indicted Mr. Bryant and Mr. Milam on kidnap and murder counts.

State newspaper editorials and many leaders of white communities have condemned the crime. Others, however, have been vocal in denouncing critics of Mississippi's racial policies as "outside meddlers."

The trial will begin with the selection of a jury of twelve white men from a special panel of 120 veniremen. There will be no Negro jurors because the couonty in which Negroes constitute 63.5 per cent of the populace, has no registered Negro voters. One must be a qualified voter to be eligible for jury service here. Women are not called for jury duty in the state.

A score of reporters and photographers from all parts of the country are here for the trial. At Mound Bayou, an all-Negro community thirty miles away, a group of Negro press representatives have been housed for several days. They are expected to request accommodations in the courtroom.

Circuit Judge Curtis M. Swango, one of the state's most respected jurists, will preside.

Defense counsel have said they will move for immediate trial of the kidnapping indictment in Tallahatchie County. This is expected to bring a dispute, since there is widespread feeling locally that the kidnapping case would be more strongly presented in neighboring LeFlore County, where young Till was abducted.

2 Go on Trial Tomorrow In Negro Boy's Slaying

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 17 (U.P.)—Two white men go on trial for their lives Monday in the "wolf whistle" murder of a Negro teenager but residents of this rich delta farming area expressed surprise today that the world is watching the small courthouse here.

Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam, calm but tight-lipped in jail at near-by Charleston, will be tried jointly for the murder of fourteen-year-old Emmett Louis Till, of Chicago.

Defense attorneys predicted the trial would last no more than three days. In the event of acquittal, they would be ready for immediate trial of kidnaping charges brought against the defendants in both Tallahatchie and LeFlore Counties.

"We don't believe the state has a case," said C. Carlton Sidney, one of five defense attorneys in the case, all from Sumner or Charleston.

Mother to Testify

One of the witnesses will be Mrs. Mamie E. Bradley, thirty-three, of Chicago, mother of the dead boy. She said she would testify at the trial after the State of Mississippi promised any "reasonable protection" in inviting her to appear.

Emmett, visiting an uncle near Greenwood, was taken from his bed early on the morning of Aug. 28 by Bryant, twenty-four, and Milam, thirty-six, who accused him of whistling at Bryant's young wife at the Bryant store in the Money community of LeFlore County.

Witnesses told authorities the boy was hustled into a car in which Mrs. Bryant and a third white man, who has never been identified, were waiting.

Say They Let Boy Go

Arrested on kidnaping charges Bryant and Milam, who are half - brothers, told Sheriff George Smith they let the boy go when they found he was not "the one" who allegedly insulted Mrs. Bryant, mother of two young boys. Emmett's Negro companions said the boy whistled at the white woman.

Three days after the abduction, a fisherman found a partly decomposed body in the Tallahatchie River, bludgeoned and shot and the head weighted down with a heavy blower fan from a cotton gin. Emmett's uncle, Moses Wright, identified the body as that of his nephew.

Authorities saying they believed Emmett was slain in Tallahatchie County, promised a vigorous prosecution. Three days later Sheriff H. C. Strider, of Tallahatchie County, who helped pull the body from the river, said he doubted it was that of Emmett because it didn't look like pictures he saw in a paper and was badly decomposed.

Gov. Hugh White appointed a special prosecutor, Robert B. Smith, of Ripley, to assist District Attorney Gerald Chatham in the case.

"Anxious for Justice"

"The people of Mississippi are anxious to see justice done in this case," Gov. White said.

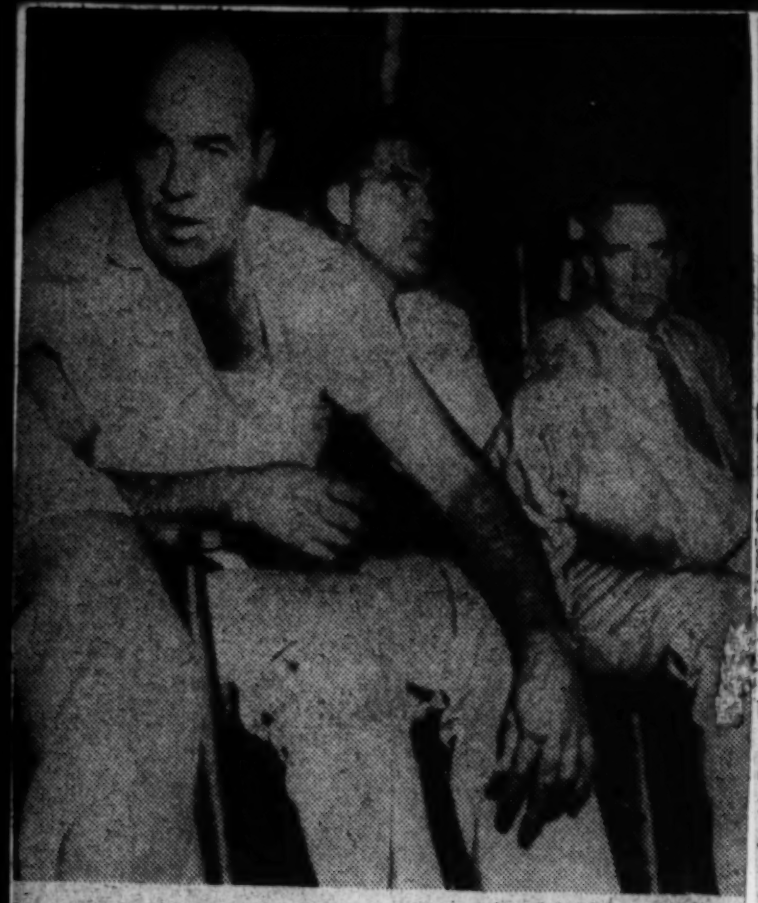
As preparations were made for the trial, residents of this town of 550 people said they couldn't understand what all the fuss was about.

"You're making a mountain out of a molehill," a man shouted at early-arriving reporters. "The N. A. A. C. P. is really making you work."

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People had termed the slaying a "lynching" and asked a Federal investigation.

A special venire of 125 names was drawn from the county at large for selection of a jury Monday, a process that sometimes takes two days in Mississippi.

Circuit Judge Curtis Swango said if the special panel is exhausted he will draw on the regular panel called for routine cases.



Associated Press wirephoto

HELD IN BOY'S DEATH—J. W. Milam (left) and Roy Bryant, half brothers, in courtroom in Sumner, Miss., after their arraignment on charges of kidnaping and slaying a fourteen-year-old Chicago Negro boy. They both have pleaded not guilty.

Hide in Brushes As Men Ransack Cabin after Trial; Others Under Protection

New York, N. Y.—Mose Wright, uncle of a Chicago Negro boy slain in Mississippi and chief witness against two white men charged with murder, has told a New York newspaper he had to flee for his life after the trial.

The victim, Wright's nephew, was Emmett Till, 14.

Wright, now in Chicago, talked by phone with the New York Post.

He was quoted as saying three carloads of white men paid a midnight visit to his Mississippi cabin, just a few hours after the trial ended in acquittal.

"But I had been warned they were coming," Wright told the Post. "So I put my three sons in the car and we hid out in the brushes near the cemetery.

Lights

"My neighbors said they (the visitors) drove up and shone their lights on three sides of the house. They kept calling out: 'Preacher, Uncle Mose, come on out here.'

"And when they didn't get any answer, they pulled out their searchlights and ransacked the place."

Wright said he and his sons, ranging from 12 to 16 years old, remained "in the brushes" all night ... then spent the next day trying ... sell their possessions—with very little success.

Journey

They went back into hiding the second night, he added, and left afterward on the journey which finally took them to Chicago.

* * *

Jackson, Miss. — Two witnesses who were reported to have seen a Negro boy in the hands of kidnapers, have been removed from Mississippi by other Negroes, a leader said Saturday.

The informant said Leroy Collins and Henry Lee Loggin are remaining out of the state for "safekeeping."

Reported Missing

Collins, a plantation hand, and Loggin, a sleeping-car porter, had been reported missing Friday by Phillip Randolph, president of the A. F. L. Brotherhood of Railroad Sleeping-Car Porters, in New York, N. Y.

But, the Mississippi Negro leader said Collins was sent to Chicago 2 days ago and that Loggin stayed in St. Louis, Mo., after being advised by Mississippi Negro friends.

This was the latest development in the case of Emmett Louis Till, 14, Two white men, Roy Bryant, 24, and his half-brother, John W. Milam, 36, were found innocent of murdering Till, principally on a point of identification.

A Tallahatchie county jury said the state failed to convince them that a body taken from the Tallahatchie river 3 days after Till's disappearance was that of Till.

The youth's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley of Chicago, and his great-uncle, sharecropper Mose Wright, identified the body as that of Till and it was buried in Chicago.

Free on Bond

Still charged with Till's kidnaping, Bryant and Milam posted $10,000 bonds and went free to wait grand jury action.

During the trial, witnesses testified the body was taken from the river appeared to be that of a mature man. They said it had been in the river longer than the 3 days Till had been missing.

Rumors recently have spread throughout Mississippi that Till's disappearance was a trick and that the Till boy had been found alive in several places, including Detroit, Mich., Greenville, Miss., Chicago and other cities. These rumors never were verified.

The Negro leader said Saturday the body buried as Till will be exhumed. He said Chicago physicians will attempt to establish the victim's age.

Collins and Loggin may be called as state witnesses, if the grand jury indicts Bryant and Milam of kidnaping counts. Collins worked on a plantation operated by Leslie Milam, brother of John Milam.

During murder trial testimony, one witness said he saw Till and two Negroes enter a plantation barn with four white men, one of whom he identified as John Milam.

Couldn't Be Found

Neither Collins nor Loggin testified during the murder trial. State attorneys said they tried unsuccessfully to find the two.

In Chicago, a Negro newspaper said Collins and Loggin were held in jail at Charleston, Miss., during the trial. A jail attendant Saturday said jail records do not show that they were held.

Finally, Congressman Diggs urged all Negroes and other fair thinking Americans to contribute to the NAACP's Legal Defense Fund. He alerted contributors ,however, to give only to drives sponsored by or sanctioned by the NAACP.

"There are many individuals and groups", Diggs warned, "who are using the feelings aroused by the tragic Emmett Till decision to fatten their own pocketbooks".

Noting that Communist organizations are taking an unusual interest in the situation, the Congressman said "we don't need their help to win this battle".

8817

NAACP Say Mississippi In Drive to Keep White Supremacy by Lynching

Bystander
Thurs. 9-8-55
P. 1

New York—Following the lynching in Mississippi of a 14-year-old Negro whose body was found Aug. 31, the top officer of the NAACP charged that "it would appear from this lynching that the State of Mississippi has decided to maintain white supremacy by murdering children."

In a statement, issued Aug. 31, Roy Wilkins added: "The killers of the boy felt free to lynch him because there is in the entire state no restraining influence of decency."

Mr. Wilkins, NAACP executive secretary, simultaneously dispatched a telegram to the Hon. Hugh White, governor of Mississippi, asserting:

Citizens Call

Dear Money Town

"... All decent citizens throughout the nation call you to use all the powers of your office to see that the lynchers of 14-year-old Emmett Louis Till are brought to justice. We cannot believe that responsible officials of the State of Mississippi condone the murdering of children on any provocation."

A reply received from Gov. White at NAACP headquarters here Sept. 1, said, in part:

"Parties charged with murder are in jail and I have every reason to believe the courts will do their duty in prosecution. Mississippi does not condone such conduct."

Victim Kidnapped

The youthful lynch victim, who was visiting an uncle in Money, Miss., while on vacation from his native city of Chicago, was kidnapped from his uncle's residence on Aug. 27 by two white men and a woman. Roy Bryant of Money, and his half-brother, J. W. Milam of Glendora, Miss., admitted kidnapping the boy but insisted they released him unharmed. The two men, arrested for kidnapping, now are being held on a murder charge.

The woman in the case, Mrs. Bryant, has disappeared. A warrant charging kidnapping has been issued against her.

Boy Shot

The body of the schoolboy was found in the Tallahatchie River near Greenwood, Miss., with a bullet through the head. The boy's head also bore the marks of a beating with a heavy instrument.

Cause for the lynching is said to be Mrs. Bryant's offense because the 14-year-old lad whistled at her.

In Chicago, where the victim's mother lives, the local NAACP branch telegraphed President Eisenhower and Attorney General Herbert Brownell for a federal investigation of the crime.

Dear Mooney Town

At a press conference, Governor White announced that he has instructed the district attorney to make a complete investigation of the killing.

The last recorded lynching in the U. S. occurred in 1951, in Winter Garden, Fla., according to NAACP records.

Gov. White Orders 'Full Prosecution' In Boy's Slaying

Post-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.
Fri. 9-2-55

GREENWOOD, Miss., Sept. 1 (U.P.)—Gov. Hugh White ordered local officials today to "fully prosecute" two white men for the abduction-slaying of a Chicago Negro teen-ager who allegedly leered and whistled at the wife of one of the suspects.

White told the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Mississippi in no way condones the slaying of 15-year-old Emmett Till. He instructed authorities here to press the case against storekeeper Roy Bryant and his half-brother, J. W. Milan for the crime.

District Atty. Gerald Chatham of Tallahatchie County said he would ask a grand jury early next week to indict Bryant and Milan for murder. They admitted taking the boy from the home of his uncle in the Money Community north of here early Sunday but denied stripping and shooting him and throwing his body in the Tallahatchie River.

The boy's nude body was found by a fisherman yesterday, his neck tied to a piece of cotton gin machinery but his feet floating above surface. The body was to be returned to Chicago for burial this afternoon.

In Jackson, Gov. White called a press conference to read a telegram he sent to Roy Wilkins, NAACP executive secretary, who had asked White to intervene.

"The parties charged with the murder are in jail," White messaged Wilkins. "I have every reason to believe that the courts will do their duty in prosecution. Mississippi does not condone such conduct."

Wilkins said in New York he was "very glad" White ordered the prosecution.

The body was believed dumped from a bridge about 10 miles from the home of Till's uncle, Moses Wright, 64, a part-time preacher.

Wright said when the men took Till from his bed he thought they would "give Emmett a beating" and turn him loose.

"They told me I wouldn't live to be 64 if I remembered their faces and told anybody."

Maurice Wright, 16, Till's second cousin, told United Press that Emmett gave a "wolf call" to Bryant's wife at the Bryant store Saturday night.

Whistle Case Suspects To Be Tried Sept. 19

Constitution
Atlanta, Ga.
Sat. 9-10-55

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 9 (UP)—Two white men, indicted for murder in the "wolf whistle" slaying of a 14-year-old Chicago Negro, will go on trial for their lives Sept. 19, it was announced today.

Circuit Judge Curtis M. Swango said he would draw a special juror panel of 125 names for selection of a jury to try storekeeper Roy Bryant and his half-brother, J. W. Milam, for the murder of Emmett Till.

P. 2

Bryant and Milam were indicted by a Tallahatchie County grand jury on both murder and kidnaping charges and are held in jail at nearby Charleston without bond pending trial.

SAY BOY FREED

They admitted taking Till from the home of his uncle near Greenwood Aug. 28, but told Leflore County Sheriff George Smith they let him go unharmed after finding he was not "the one" who whistled at Bryant's pretty young wife at the Bryant store.

The body was found shot and beaten three days after the kidnaping in the Tallahatchie River, the head weighted down by a heavy blower fan from a cotton gin.

ALL MALE PANEL

Swango set the trial date after both defense and prosecuting attorneys said there was no reason to delay the trial. Dist. Atty. Gerald Chatham asked for "a few more days" to prepare his case.

Swango will draw the panel of male Tallahatchie County voters Monday, one week before the trial opens. Women are not allowed to serve on juries in Mississippi and Negroes only on rare occasions.



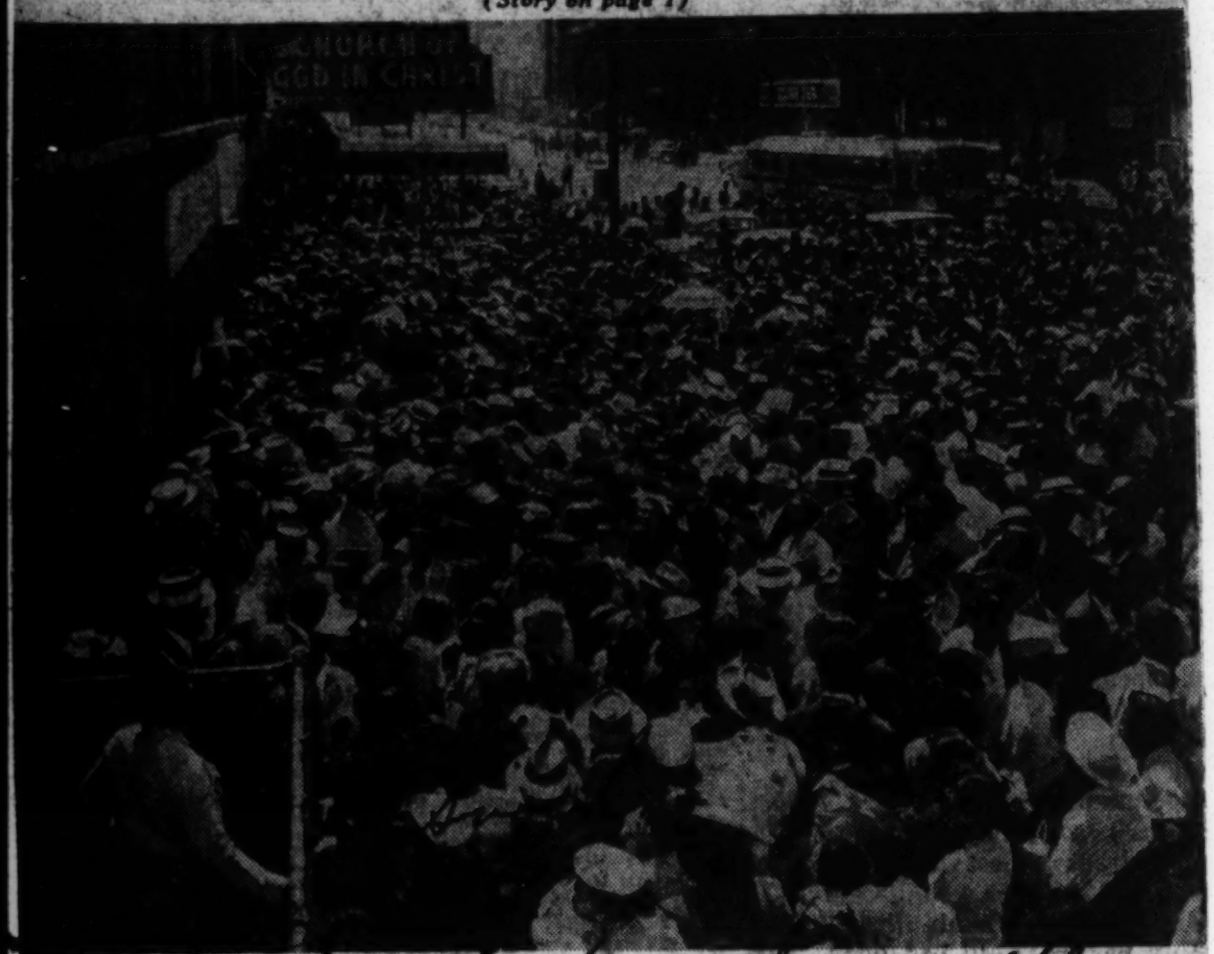
[TRIBUNE Photo]

Sun. 9-4-55

Grieving mother of murdered youth, Mrs. Mamie Bradley, at rites.

Throng Attends Funeral of Slain Youth

(Story on page 1)



Crowd outside Church of God and Christ church before funeral of Emmett Louis Till yesterday. Sunday Tribune Chicago, Ill. (pt.)

8818

PRINCIPALS IN EMMETT TILL CASE MAY FACE $100,000 SUIT

Daily World Atlanta Ga. 9-25-55

CHICAGO—(INS)— An Attorney for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People reiterated tonight that he would sue white principals in the Emmett Louis Till murder case for $100,000 Sun. 9-25-55

William Henry Huff, a lawyer representing the Chicago branch of the NAACP, said the suits would name Roy Bryant, Bryant's brother-in-law J. W. Milam, and Mrs. Roy Bryant.

Bryant and J. W. Milam were acquitted today of murder by an all-white jury at Sumner, Miss.

Huff explained that the basis of names of Mrs. Bryant and Leslie Milam, a full brother of J. W. Milam, 'because both were involved in the case."

The Chicago attorney said the suits would be filed in the U. S. District Court in Mississippi in behalf of Mrs. Mamie Bradley, mother of the Till boy. Huff did not set a date but said the suits would be pushed following a conference early next week with NAACP officials.

Huff explained that the basis of the suits will be damage done to Mrs. Bradley by the 'kidnap-murder' of her son. He said he expects to bring out at court hearings that civil rights of young Till were "abused" while the boy was in Mississippi.

JEWISH GROUP HITS RESULTS OF TILL CASE

Daily World Atlanta Ga. 9-25-55

NEW YORK—(INS)—The Jewish Labor Committee tonight branded the decision in the Emmett Till murder case a "grave miscarriage of justice" and demanded "immediate intervention by the Attorney General of the United States."

Adolph Held, national chairman of the organization of a half million Jewish workers in the AFL and CIO, also issued an appeal asking "every American" to "raise his voice against this outrageous decision."

Meanwhile the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People tonight issued a strong statement terming the verdict of the jury in the Emmett Till murder trial "shameful."

NAACP Board Chairman Dr. Channing H. Tobias said the "verdict is as shameful as it is surprising."

He praised Judge Curtis M. Swan-son's "fair and impartial conduct of the trial" and the "skill and vigor" of prosecutor Gerald Chatham.

Dr. Tobias maintained the jurors "have done their best to discredit our judicial system and to undermine faith in American democracy."

Another spokesman for the organization said the NAACP planned no legal action in the case, but would continue its long-range educational efforts "to build up an environment where this cannot be repeated."

Lynch Victim's Mother Invited To Attend Trial

Houston Tex. 9-23-55

SUMNER, Miss. (ANNPA) --Mrs Mamie E. Bradley, mother of 14-year-old Emmett Louis Till, will be invited to come here from Chicago for the trial of two white men who are charged with the kidnap-murder of her son for "wolf-whistling" at a white woman.

Houston Ledger

The boy's body was found in the Tallahatchie River three days after the two white men, accompanied by a white woman, had taken him from the home of an uncle, Mose Wright, near Money.

Nat. 9-17-55

District Attorney Gerald Chatham of Hernando said Thursday night that he would invite Mrs Bradley to be present at the trial as soon as a date is set.

"In the telegram, I plan to express my personal regret and the regret of the state concerning the unfortunate death of her son," Chatham sad. "I will tell her that I think it is important to the state's case that she appear and certain evidence she can give would be very important.

Chatham added that he would promise Mrs Bradley any "reasonable protection" she might feel that she needs.

Roy Byant, 24, and his half-brother, J. W. Milan, 35, admitted taking Emmett from the home of his uncle but said they freed the boy after they found that he was not the right boy. They are charged with kidnapping and murder.

Writer Reviews Passionate Closing Plea Of Till Case Atty.

Daily World Atlanta Ga.

By LOUIS HICKS

SUMNER, MISS.—In one of the most passionate pleas ever made by a white man in the South on behalf of a Negro, District Attorney Gerald Chatham Friday begged an all-white jury to forget about race and condemn what is "morally and legally wrong" and convict Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam for the murder of Emmett Till.

The powerfully-built District Attorney, serving his last year as prosecutor made the plea as he and special Prosecutor Roy B. Smith ended their arguments and sent the case to the jury. It was one of the most dramatic highlights in the drama-studded trial as Mr. Chatham began his argument.

For here was a southern-born white man, facing an all-white jury and asking that jury to render a verdict which could hang two white men for killing a Negro. No white man has ever been given a death penalty in Mississippi for killing a Negro. It was a challenging and difficult moment in the career of Mr. Chatham, but in the interest of fair reporting it must be said that he rose to the challenge with all the ability at his command and he is a man of commanding ability.

HEARD OUTSIDE

In a loud booming voice which could be heard outside on the streets below the courtroom, Chatham told the jury and the 175 whites and 23 colored people that he is "not concerned with the pressure and agitation which the trial has produced, either within or outside the state of Mississippi.

"But I am concerned" he said with what is morally and legally wrong."

Then with a direct reference to Mrs. Mamie Bradley, mother of the dead Emmett Till he looked at the courtroom and the jury and said, "The next time it may be you who will be sitting here crying."

Concluding his argument Chatham said: "I say to you, unless you judge this case on its merits it will endanger the precepts and examples which we hold dear here in the south."

Houston Ledger 9-23-55

By every courtroom standard the Mississippi born DA made a great plea for the dead colored youth. At times one got the feeling that he was in a Baptist church and that Chatham was the Baptist preacher.

For his numerous moments of brilliant oratory he brought tears to the eyes not only of those seated at the colored press table but to some of the white listeners as well.

DEFENSE ARGUMENT

One of the key arguments that the defense had made was that the body found in the river had not been that of Emmett Till. They had presented a doctor, a sheriff and two undertakers whose testimony attempted to show that it could not have been Till's body.

Against this testimony Chatham had relied heavily on the identification of the youth by his own mother. Recalling her testimony to the jury he told of the case of his own son who had a dog named "Shep."

He said one day his own son had come to him after his dog had been missing for a few days and said to him, "Dad, I've found old Shep."

The prosecutor said his young son then took him by the hand and led him to a hollow ravine behind the barn and pointed to the badly decomposed body of his dog.

"That dog's body was rotting and the meat was falling off its bone," the prosecutor said, "but my little boy pointed to it and said, "That's ole Shep, Pa. That's old Shep."

MOTHER'S TESTIMONY ENOUGH

Dramatically tying this illustration in with Mrs. Bradley's identification of her son, Chatham in a pleading voice to the jury said, "My boy didn't need no undertaker or a sheriff to identify his dog. And we don't need them here to identify Emmett Till. All we need is someone who loved him and cared for him."

"If there was one ear left, one hairline, one part of his nose, any part of Emmett Till's body, then I say to you that Mamie Bradley was God's given witness to identify him."

The aroused DA then turned to damaging testimony offered by a defense witness a white Doctor who had testified that the body could have been there at least ten days while Till had only been missing for three days.

COLOR QUESTION

On the stand the doctor, had stated that the body was so badly decomposed he could not tell whether it was colored or white. Addressing himself to this argument, Chatham said, "Everyone who has testified here has stated that this was the body of a colored boy. When the sheriff was first told of the body his informer said, "There is a little n. . . r boy in the river. Everybody who saw the body said, "a nigra boy is in the river."

But now we have this doctor come up here with all his degrees and titles and tell us that he couldn't tell whether it was a white boy or a colored boy.

"Tell you the people of this state are wasting their money sending a man to school and educating him to be a doctor when he is not able to tell a white man from a Negro."

"I want to say this about the doctor—if he can't tell black from white, I don't want him writing any prescriptions for me."

SOUTHERN ANGLE

Chatham did not miss any strong points in his plea for conviction of the two white men. He constantly reminded the jury that he was a son of the South and he pointed out that the jury knew as southerners that even if the Till boy had done something wrong all the white men had to do was to take a "razor strap — place him over a barrel and give him a good whipping."

"That's the way I deal with my boy," he said. "You deal with a child as if he is a child—not as if he

Writ (Con)

...illing of a human being."
...After he finished Mrs. Bradley who was seated ne... at the press table said: 'He coun... ...ave done any better."

...time anyone saw him with too. If But the next time ... little boy his feet ... out of the river and ... Chatham called t... cowardly act and

Uncle Mose saw him with too. If Willie Reed had been lying, the five lawyers for the defense would have had fifty people up here to say he was not qualified to speak

"But did they do this? They did not. They couldn't do it because Willie Reed was telling the truth.

"No they did not. Willie Reed a colored witness) told you how he saw Emmett Till that Sunday morning on the Milam place and he told you how he later saw J. W. Milam with the pistol in his hand that

Trial Date To Be Set Today; Suspects Jailed Without Bond

Daily World

SUMNER, Miss. — (SNS) — The possibility arose Wednesday that two Mississippi white men, charged with the lynch-murder of a 14-year-old Negro boy, Emmett Louis Till from Chicago, might be tried within the next three weeks. It had been previously stated that the pair, Roy Bryant and his half brother, J. W. Milan, would not be tried before early next year. Thurs. 9-8-55

Circuit Judge Curtis Swango, Jr. stated that he would set the trial date today. According to Sheriff H. C. Strider, the trial will be set for this term of court. The term began Monday and will last for three weeks.

P1

Meanwhile, the two men have been jailed in the Tallahatchie County Jail in Charleston, Mississippi.

Atlanta Ga.

INDICTED TUESDAY

The two men were indicted Tuesday for murder by an all-white grand jury. Both entered pleas of innocent. Because of the possibility of a trial in the near future, bond was not set for the pair.

Mississippi law calls for a sentence of death in the event the two men are convicted without recommendation of mercy; if mercy is recommended, the penalty called for is life imprisonment.

In Chicago, the dead youth's aunt, Mrs. Elizabeth Wright, again raised the question of the number of men who abducted the youth from the home and the number now under arrest. The witnesses at the abduction, including Mrs. Wright, maintain that there were three men who came to the house early Sunday morning demanding "that boy from Chicago."

'ONLY TWO' SAYS SHERIFF

However, Sheriff George Smith, who was not present at the abduction, said that he was convinced that threre were only two men involved. Sheriff Strider has stated, despite positive identification of the [illegible] and uncle, that he is "not sure at all" that the body recovered from the Tallahatchie River was that of the missing youth.

Also missing from the scene is the wife of Roy Bryant — the woman who allegedly was the cause of the whole incident. It was she who reportedly was "wolf-whistled" at by Young Till and also she who, according to witnesses identified him as the "right one" when the two (or three) men went to the farm home to take the 14-year-old boy.

Also in Chicago, an unidentified "NAACP Lawyer" stated that he would definitely file a $100,000 damage suit against Bryant and Milam if the men escape "death in the gas chamber."

Meanwhile, the little town of Sumner — total population 650 — went about its business as though nothing had happened.

Sumner's Negro residents — most of whom are sharecroppers and tenant farmers — unanimously refuse to discuss the case with strangers.

Daily World

'TOO BUSY TO TALK'

But Dr. E. L. Biles, Mayor of Sumner, said this was not from fear — it's because they are busy.

"I personally have been too busy delivering babies and haven't even had a chance to get over to the post office," Biles said.

P 3

"Cottonpicking is just getting underway and most everybody else is busy in the fields. Even the arraignment didn't create too much excitement among white or Negro residents."

SANE INTEREST

He added, however, "some of the residents have a passing interest in the case and want to see justice done."

Biles charged that Sumner is "the whipping post regarding publicity" in the case. Bryant and Milam are from Money, and the boy abducted from there. However, his body was found in the Tallahatchie River near Sumner.

"The Delta is unusually quiet," said Biles. "We don't expect trouble, and I don't think we'll need any National Guardsmen. Things like this happen every day in Chicago, St. Louis and other northern cities and there is never any furor about it."

Groups Here Attack Mississippi Verdict

Times

Sun. 9-25-55

The jury verdict acquitting two white men of the murder or a 14-year-old boy in Sumner, Miss., was denounced yesterday by Negro and Jewish organizations in New York.

Roy Bryant, 24 years old, a storekeeper, and J. W. Milam, 36, his half-brother, were found not guilty on Friday by a jury of twelve white neighbors. They were accused of kidnapping Emmett Till, a Chicago youth, from the shack of an uncle, and beating and shooting him dead because he allegedly had "wolf-whistled" at Bryant's young wife.

Dr. Channing Tobias, chairman of the board of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said:

New York

Daily

"The jurors who returned this shameful verdict deserve a medal from the Kremlin for meritorious service in communism's war against democracy. They have done their best to discredit our judicial system, to hold us up as a nation of hypocrites, and to undermine faith in American democracy."

Dr. Tobias did, however, praise the conduct of the trial by Circuit Judge Curtis M. Swango and of the prosecution by Robert B. Smith 3d.

Times

Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the association, said the verdict was no surprise, but the crime was a shock "even in Mississippi." The outcome of the trial and the killing were products of the disfranchisement and economic and political exploitation of Negroes in Mississippi, he asserted.

P 42

He predicted that a "wave of anger" among Negro voters would have repercussions in the 1956 elections. Demands for equal rights laws would be pressed in the next Congress, despite "filibusters," Mr. Wilkins said.

Jewish Women Protest

The Emma Lazarus Federation of Jewish Women's Clubs wired President Eisenhower a reminder that Mississippi was still "part of the United States."

"As Americans, we urged you to utilize all means of your high office," the telegram by June Gordon, executive director, read, "to achieve justice in kidnaping and murder of young Till, and act now for elimination of basic anti-democratic practices of all-white jury and denial of the right to vote for Negroes in Mississippi."

A protest also was voiced by Adolph Held, national chairman of the Jewish Labor Committee, representing 500,000 workers in American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations unions.

"American democracy has, by this evil, bigoted act, received a serious reversal in the eyes of minority peoples throughout the free world," he said. "The Communists have won another round in their insidious campaign against the United States among the Asiatic, African and other minority people."

A protest will be staged in Harlem at 2:30 this afternoon by the New York Division of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. The meeting will be held in the Williams Institutional Church, Seventh Avenue near 132d Street.

Mrs. Mamie Bradley, mother of the slain boy, flew from Chicago yesterday to appear at the meeting. Speakers will include City Councilman Earl Brown; A. Philip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, A. F. L., and Mr. Wilkins.

Another rally will be held at 3 P. M. today by the Bronx Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People at Trinity Methodist Church, Washington Avenue and East 166th Street, the Bronx.

French Press Critical

Special to The New York Times.

PARIS, Sept. 24—The French press condemned the acquittal today as a demonstration of continuing racism in the United States.

The respected and independent Le Monde devoted its front page editorial to an appraisal of the murder trial. It attributed the result to the fear of the white minority in Mississippi of being "swallowed up by the Negro mass."

Le Monte also praised former President Truman and President Eisenhower and the Supreme Court for their efforts to end racial discrimination and "witch-hunting."

The strongest reaction came not, as might have been expected, from the Communists' L'Humanite but from the right-wing L'Aurore. The paper, which has often accused the United States of meddling in France's North African affairs, gave the story lead position under big, black headlines proclaiming: "Shameful Verdict at Sumner—the Two White Assassins of the Young Negro Acquitted!"

"When one presumes endlessly to give lessons to others, when one concerns oneself with the lot of 'oppressed peoples' one would be well advised to begin by watching over affairs at home," the Aurore declared.

Even the Figaro, conservative and generally friendly to the United States, remarked with irony that "by the appearances, the trial had proceeded in legal fashion, as if it were a matter of rendering justice."

The trial has attracted more attention in the French press than any judicial proceeding in the United States since the trial of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, ultimately executed as spies. At that time many Frenchmen of all political colorations joined in a "Save-the-Rosenbergs" committee.

8819

Wolf Whistle Slaying Deplored by Gov. White

Fri 9-2-55
P-30
Star
Washington
D.C.

GREENWOOD, Miss., Sept. 2 (AP).—The Governors of Mississippi and Illinois today called for an investigation of the wolf whistle slaying of a 14-year-old Chicago Negro.

Emmitt Louis Till met death for whistling at the comely 27-year-old wife of a Delta storekeeper.

Negro friends warned young Till to get out of town. Three days later his naked body was found in the Tallahatchie River.

"This is not a lynching," said Gov. Hugh White of Mississippi. "It is straightout murder." He called for a full investigation. "Mississippi deplores such conduct on the part of its citizens and certainly can not condone it."

Gov. William Stratton of Illinois said his attorney general would ask Mississippi authorities for a "complete investigation."

Called Brutal Crime

In Chicago, Mayor Richard J. Daley called it a "brutal, terrible crime. . . . I hope and believe that the full force of our country's law enforcement agencies, both State and Federal, will see to it that whoever committed this terrible crime is brought to justice."

Two men were being held without bail in the Leflore County Jail for the kidnap-slaying—Storekeeper Roy Bryant, a 27-year-old former paratrooper, and his half brother, 36-year-old J. W. Milam, an Army lieutenant in World War II. Bryant's wife, reportedly the object of the wolf whistle, is being sought.

The incident began more than a week ago when Till, who was visiting his uncle, Moses Wright, went with a group of Negro friends to a small store at Money, Miss., to buy bubblegum.

"I guess Emmitt was killed because of the wolf whistle at a pretty 27-year-old white lady," said Wheeler Parker, the dead boy's 16-year-old cousin, who was also visiting the farm and has since returned to his home at Alton, Ill.

Another cousin, 16-year-old Maurice Wright, said to Till at the time: "Boy, you ought to know better than that. . . ." Till laughed despite a friend's warning that he "hadn't heard the end of it."

Group Demands Boy

Nothing happened until Sunday morning, when a car drove up to the farm of Moses Wright. Two (possibly three) white men and a woman had come for Till. They asked for the "boy from Chicago."

The uncle pleaded with them not to take the boy. . . . "Just take him out in the yard and whip him and I'll be satisfied." Young Parker said he watched horrified from the rear of the room, saw his cousin dress and leave with the pre-dawn visitors. He insists he saw three men.

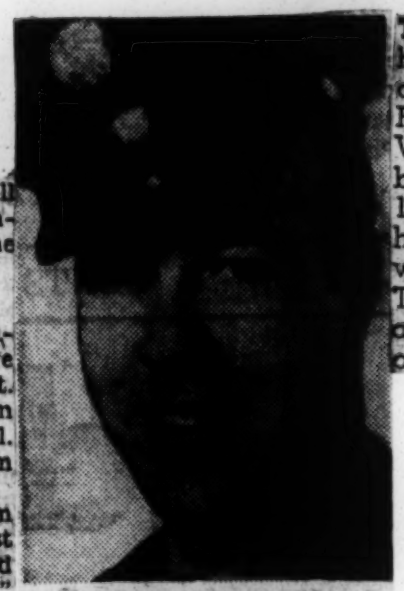
Bryant has admitted carrying the boy off from the house, but insists he released him unharmed.

Three days later a teen-aged fisherman found Till's body which was weighted down with the 150-pound fan of an abandoned cotton gin.

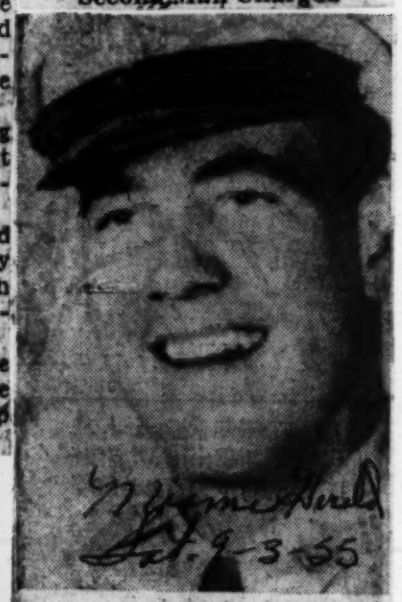
There was a bullet hole above the youth's right ear, and the left side of the face had a deep cleft.



ROY BRYANT
Named in Slaying



JOHN W. MILAM
Second Man Charged



Miami Herald
Oct. 9-3-55



P. 20 b
Miami Herald

TWO SOLDIERS being held in the death of a Glendora, Miss., Negro boy are Roy Bryant, top, and John W. Milam, bottom. The body of Emmett Louis Till, 15, was found shot in the head and weighted down with a 100-pound fan in the Tallahatchie River, after he allegedy wolf-whistled at a White woman.

r Sumner, Miss.—

Jury drawing begins for trial of two men accused of slaying Negro boy

Birmingham News
Wed. 10-5-55

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 12—(AP)—As the drawing of a jury began today, the prosecution still declined to say whether it will ask the death penalty for two white men accused of murdering a Chicago Negro boy.

Circuit Judge Curtis Swango will draw a special jury panel of 120 men from Tallahatchie County, where the battered body of 14-year-old Emmett Till was found in river drift three days after he allegedly whistled at a white woman.

Birmingham Post-Herald

When the trial of half-brothers Roy Bryant of Money, Miss., and J. W. Milam of Glendora opens Sept. 19, state and defense each will be allowed to reject 12 jurors without cause and any number for cause.

Dist. Atty. Gerald Chatham declined to say when asked by newsmen whether he would ask prospective jurors if they had any objections to the death penalty.

But Atty. J. J. Breeland of Sumner, who heads a battery of five defense attorneys, said he was certain the state would ask for the maximum sentence.

THE JURY WILL BE composed of 12 white men. Women cannot serve jury duty in Mississippi. Both sides said no Negroes will be impaneled.

Breeland said the defense would not ask for a change of venue and was "ready to go to trial right now."

The defense has no objections to trying both men at the same time, Breeland said.

"It's all right with us. The facts are the same," he said.

Special Asst. Dist. Atty. Gen. Robert B. Smith III of Ripley, a former FBI man, has been appointed by Gov. Hugh White to assist the prosecution.

Besides Breeland, the defense will have Attys. Sidney Carton, Harvey Henderson, J. W. Kelly and J. W. Whitten, all of Sumner.

"They got the whole Sumner bar," commented the district attorney.

A GRAND JURY indicted Bryant, 24, and Milam, 35, for the kidnap-murder of Till, who was visiting an uncle at the little Delta town of Money last month when he was abducted and slain.

Till was taken from the farm on a Sunday night, three days after he allegedly whistled and made obscene remarks to Bryant's pretty 27-year-old wife while purchasing bubblegum at their store in Money.

Bryant and Milam have admitted taking the boy but claim he was the wrong one and released.

"The way I see it," said Breeland, "the state has got to prove three things:

"1. That the boy was murdered.

"2. That it happened in the second judicial district of Tallahatchie County.

"3. That Bryant and Milam did

"It's all circumstantial, which is OK when you're returning an indictment but quite different when you've got to prove it beyond a reasonable doubt."

TILL'S BODY, with a bullet hole over the right ear and the left side of the head severed by an ax, was found in the Tallahatchie River within the county. Blood stains also were found on a county bridge.

Till's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley of Chicago, will be subpoenaed as a state witness if she comes to Mississippi.

William Henry Huff, NAACP attorney who is advising her, said he will recommend that she make the trip. Earlier, she had asked FBI protection and been refused. The FBI said it doesn't provide protection for anyone. Huff said the subpoena was adequate protection.

Chatham said the subpoena cannot be served on Mrs. Bradley until she comes to Mississippi from Chicago.

Could happen anywhere in desegregation area; claim

NEW ORLEANS, Sept. 12—(AP)—Chief NAACP Atty. Thurgood Marshall, who handled the segregation cases before the U. S. Supreme Court, says the Emmett Till slaying could have happened in "any Southern town fighting or attempting to delay desegregation."

Till, a 14-year-old Chicago boy, was slain near Greenwood, Miss., for allegedly whistling and making obscene remarks to a white woman.

Marshall told a Negro Masonic group here yesterday he hopes "Mississippi won't be permitted to save face with the mere motion or formality of a trial."

Mississippi, he said, was without incident until white citizen councils were formed to oppose segregation "and now at least three lynchings have been reported in that great state."

He listed the Till slaying as one but did not name the others.

WITNESS IN TILL KIDNAP 'HID OUT'

Times-Picayune
Wed. 10-5-55

Mose Wright Gives Story to New York Paper

NEW YORK, Oct. 4 (AP) — Mose Wright, chief witness against two white men charged with murdering Emmett Louis Till, Tuesday said he fled Mississippi in terror after their acquittal.

P. 30

The New York Post quoted the Negro sharecropper as saying three carloads of white men visited his shack at midnight after the trial ended Sept. 23.

New Orleans

"But I had been warned they were coming," Wright told the Post by telephone. "So I put my three sons in the car and we hid out in the bushes near the cemetery."

At the trial, Wright, uncle of Till, a 14-year-old Chicago Negro, pointed out Roy Bryant, 24, and John W. Milam, 36, as the men who abducted Till in late August. A body identified by Till's mother as that of her son was found three days later in the Tallahatchie River.

After two nights of hiding after the trial, Wright told the Post, he tried unsuccessfully to sell his possessions and then fled to Chicago, where he is living.

Denies Knowing Anything

Another newspaper, The Chicago Defender, interviewed 22-year-old Leroy Collins, one of two men sought for questioning as possible witnesses of Till's slaying. But Collins denied he knew anything about the murder.

Collins told the Negro weekly that he and Harry Loggins, 24, were not near the scene of Till's abduction when it took place.

At the trial, a Negro witness, 18-year-old Willie Reed, testified he saw a man who looked like Milam and three other white men and a boy who looked like Till and two other Negroes on a plantation in Sunflower County, which borders Tallahatchie County, scene of the murder trial. He said he later heard a lot of "licking and hollering."

There has been speculation that Collins and Loggins were the Negroes seen by Reed and they witnessed any slaying that may have taken place.

Wright told the New York Post that neighbors saw carloads of white men who "drove up and shone their lights on three sides of the house. They kept calling out: 'Preacher, Uncle Mose, come on out here.'

'Ransacked the Place'

"And when they didn't get any answer, they pulled out their searchlights and ransacked the place," Wright said.

Collins also left Mississippi for Chicago as did Reed. Police now are guarding Reed at a Chicago hospital, where he is suffering from nervous exhaustion.

Enoch Waters, executive editor of The Defender, said he has been unable to have Reed take a look at Collins at the hospital. Reed might be able to determine if Collins was one of the Negroes he saw on the plantation.

Milam and Bryant face kidnaping charges. According to police testimony at their murder trial, they admitted taking the boy from Mose Wright's shack, but claim they released him unharmed.

The jury foreman, after announcing the verdict of innocent, told reporters the jury was not convinced the body found in the Tallahatchie River was Till's.

Dixie Trends—

Southern Accent At Trial Stumps Northern Newsmen

By ROBERT H. DENLEY
International News Service Writer

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 24.—The Southern accent may disappear some day but Northern newsmen who covered the Emmet Till murder trial at Sumner think they have found an insensible stronghold.

Movies to some degree, then radio and now television have been chopping away at regional differences in speech.

Television may be making the most improvements in Southern talk, or doing the most damage, according to your viewpoint. TV has the programs that capture and hold the attention of the small fry during the years when speech habits are being formed.

Parents find their 3 and 4-year-olds pronouncing words with a clear cut emphasis on "r's" and "g's" that are virtually missing from the speech of the parents themselves. At the Till murder trial the Southern accents gave newsmen, especially the large crop from Eastern and Midwestern states, real fits.

Other Factors, Too

Of course, there are other factors that make hearing difficult in a large, crowded courtroom. Some of the witnesses were youngsters, some were Negroes testifying against white men. And there was the natural stage fright of being thrust suddenly before a large audience to speak of things on which the lives of two men might depend.

But the Southern accent also entered in. When a witness mentioned "an arn weight" there was a flurry at press tables to uncover the fact that he was talking about an "iron." That sort of thing went on all day. Once for example, when a name was called out in court, reporters sitting at the same table wrote it down phonetically in variations ranging from "Radcliff" to "Russell."

Repeatedly Judge Curtis Swango had to tell witnesses to speak up. Even under prodding some were unable to speak louder or clearer. Their voices seemed to be trapped in the roofs of their mouths, sliding through unmoving lips, even though the effort to speak up was apparent in the strained expression of their faces.

Interviews Hold Interest

Dozens of TV and radio people were among the reporters covering the trial this week, and there were interviews without number.

Sims Is Cited

Recently Lydel Sims of The Commercial Appeal has been exploring the Southern accent problem. There is nothing wrong, Sims thinks, with the honeyed Dixie voice. It is the electronic equipment, instead, which is at fault. His readers have picked up the ball and are running on the side of keeping the Southern accent and changing equipment.

Till Case Echoes Despite Acquittal --Mother Protests

By WILLIAM SORRELS

Developments in the Emmett L. Till case failed to end with the acquittal Friday of two white men of murder charges in the Courthouse at Sumner, Miss.

Two storekeepers, Roy Bryant, 24, of Money, Miss., and his half-brother, J. W. Milam, 36, of nearby Glendora, Saturday were behind bars at Greenwood awaiting a hearing on a kidnap charge in the abduction-slaying of Till, a 14-year-old Chicago Negro.

In Chicago, Mamie Bradley, mother of the victim and a state witness in the murder trial, charged "no effort was made to find an 'eye-witness'" to testify.

She also said she will attend a protest meeting in New York City this afternoon. The Negro woman will be accompanied by Rayfield Moody, a cousin of Till. He told newsmen a "mass rally" is planned "to protest this lynching."

Moody said the meeting was to be held with the co-operation of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Two Negro witnesses for the state in the murder trial have gone to Chicago with Mamie Bradley and Representative Charles C. Diggs of Detroit, a Negro Democrat. They are Willie Reed, an 18-year-old Negro who said he saw Milam near a barn where he heard moans and licks, and Mary Bradley, who lives near Reed outside Drew, Miss.

"We felt Reed would be safer in Chicago," said the representative. He attended the trial as an "observer."

Mose Wright, 64-year-old uncle of Till, reportedly has left his home on the Frederick plantation near Money to take a "life-time job" with a white dairyman at Albany, N. Y. Mose, often called "Uncle Mose" at the trial, could not be reached last night.

"I believe he has gone," said G. C. Frederick.

Claims Witnesses Jailed

Shortly after she returned to Chicago, the victim's mother said she "believed" important witnesses were held in the Charleston, Miss., jail to prevent them from testifying.

During the trial at Sumner, Bryant and Milam were held in the Charleston jail.

Sheriff H. C. Strider Sr. of Charleston, who was a defense witness in the Sumner trial, was not at his home early last night.

Leflore County Atty. John Fraiser of Greenwood said Saturday night the kidnap warrant sworn out Aug. 29, the day after Till disappeared, carries a severe penalty upon conviction. It comes under capital offense statutes, he said.

Attorneys for the accused men, who were freed Friday in Tallahatchie County in the slaying of Till, tried to make bail for them immediately after they were taken to Greenwood from Sumner, but failed.

Hearing Date Not Set

They are expected to continue to seek the men's release this week, but date for a preliminary hearing before Judge Charles Pollard remains unset.

Dist. Atty. Stanny Sanders of Indianola, Miss., is expected to seek a kidnaping indictment when the Leflore County Grand Jury meets Nov. 7.

In Sumner, life returned to normal for the first time in a week yesterday. Gone were the reporters, photographers and the curious. Also missing was the turmoil and excitement which came with the trial, which was watched nationally and abroad.

About the only places crowds could be seen were at stores near quiet, placid Cassidy Bayou at the edge of the town.

Repercussions elsewhere, however, were keeping Sumner in the news.

Trial in Mississippi

Two white men indicted in Mississippi for the killing of a 14-year old Negro boy will be brought to trial for murder on Monday. It hardly need be said that this trial will be closely watched throughout the country. But as far as the record shows, the State of Mississippi has acted in forthright fashion in investigating the murder and presenting the case to a grand jury. There is no basis for assuming that the judge and prosecutor will conduct the trial any differently.

One of the witnesses at the trial will be Mrs. Mamie Bradley, mother of the slain boy, who has been invited to be present by the State. She is going to travel from Chicago in secrecy, and an attorney for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People says this is because reprisals from white residents of Mississippi are feared.

One can hardly avoid the conclusion that statements such as this are designed to exploit the racial aspects of this crime. It will be difficult at best to obtain 12 jurors in Mississippi who will approach such a case as this with open and impartial minds. And attempts to exploit the racial aspects of the crime for propaganda purposes can only serve to compound this difficulty.



Herald Tribune photos by Don Rice

Part of the crowd of 15,000 which attended the Till protest meeting in and outside the Williams Institutional C. M. E. Church on Seventh Ave., between 131st and 132d Sts., yesterday.

Rally Protests Mississippi Killing

3,000 Crowd Into Harlem Rally, 12,000 in Overflow

Fifteen thousand persons gathered in Harlem yesterday to protest the killing in Mississippi of fourteen-year-old Emmett Louis Till, applauded the suggestion that Federal troops be employed to enforce justice in the South. They responded with equal enthusiasm to a call for a "march on Dixie" and to the suggestion that a Mississippi Refugee Committee bring Negroes from that state to the North.

The Williams Institutional Colored Methodist Episcopal Church, on Seventh Ave. between 131st and 132d Sts., was crowded with 3,000 persons, and 12,000 more filled the street in front of the church to hear the speakers over a public address system and to catch a glimpse of Mrs. Mamie Bradley, mother of the slain Chicago Negro. The meeting had been called by the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, A. F. L.

Trial a "Farce-Comedy"

At Sumner, Miss., on Saturday, two white men accused of murdering the boy were found innocent by an all-white jury. The trial was described yesterday by Mrs. Bradley, who had attended it, as "a farce—a comedy." A. Philip Randolph, president of the Sleeping Car Porters termed it a "national disgrace," and the other speakers shared that opinion in various terms.

It was Mr. Randolph who implied that Federal troops should be sent into the South. He began a sentence by saying: "If the United States can send its forces six thousand miles across the seas to Korea . . ." and the rest of his statement was immediately drowned out by loud applause.

Mr. Randolph had to wait until the ovation had died down before he could complete the sentence. He said, "in the interest of world democracy it would appear that the Federal government should use its vast powers to stop the lynching of Negro citizens by Mississippi racists in the interest of American democracy."

Refugee Committee Urged

New York City Councilman Earl Brown proposed the Mississippi Refugee Committee, saying he was sure those persons dedicated to liberating the victims of dictatorship in Europe would be as willing "to do as much for Americans as for foreigners." He said the movement would act as a powerful "economic sanction" on the state, which would "collapse without the sweat of the Negro."

He also accused the Department of Justice of failing to investigate actively the violation of Negroes' civil rights in the South. "They do not accord us the same protection they would to Bulganin," he said, and added that "there is a collapse of justice when a colored man is involved."

The Rev. David N. Licorish, associate minister of the Abyssinian Baptist Church, 132 W. 138th St., bade "farewell to those who will not be counted in the struggle," and called on Mr. Randolph to lead a "march on Dixie." He recalled that Mr. Randolph had once led a march to Washington to advocate the passage of a law to create a Fair Employment Practices Commission.

Power At Polls Cited

Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, avoided any of the more dramatic suggestions and advised the audience to accomplish their purposes in "a decent American way." Reminding the audience that the Negro vote may be crucial in the 1956 elections, Mr. Wilkins predicted that both major parties "are going to have to go after you." He said the greatest power of the Negro population is their power to vote.

"Stop being emotional and be smart," Mr. Wilkins cautioned. He advised his hearers to forego their previous sympathies and to vote for those political figures whose actions indicate that they will support civil rights legislation.

A resolution, adopted at the meeting, called on President Eisenhower to recommend a Federal anti-lynch law at a special session of Congress. A second resolution demanded that Gov. Hugh White of Mississippi and the Justice Department determine the whereabouts of two missing Negroes who had been scheduled to testify at the Sumner trial.

Mrs. Bradley said that her brother, a Mississippi resident, had to sign pledges that his nephew's coffin would not be opened before it was allowed out of the state for burial. This was to prevent disclosure of the mutilation of the body, she said. She added that she had decided, in Chicago, to have the coffin opened "so that everybody could know what is going on in the South."

A detail of thirty policemen was onh and when the meeting began. As the crowd swelled, filling the sidewalks, the two traffic lanes an dthe center island, and spilling over into the adjacent blocks, additional forces, including some mounted police, were called out.

In the Bronx, a similar protest rally at the Trinity Methodist Church, Washington Ave. and E. 166th St., was attended by 300 persons. The rally was organized by the Bronx chapter of the N. A. A. C. P.



Mrs. Mamie Bradley, mother of the slain Emmett Louis Till, arriving at the meeting.

8821

2 Indicted in Slaying of Negro Boy

Washington Post
Wed 9-7-55

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 6 (UP) A grand jury indicted two white men today on charges of kidnaping and murdering Emmitt Till, 14-year-old Negro boy from Chicago who allegedly whistled at a white woman.

Roy Bryant, 24, and J. W. Milam, 36, his half-brother, will be arraigned on the indictments later.

Murder carries a maximum penalty of death in Mississippi's gas chamber. The minimum sentence is life in prison. The kidnaping statute carries a maximum term of 10 years.

Till's body, a bullet in his head and a 100-pound cotton gin fan tied to his neck, was pulled from the Tallahatchie River Wednesday. The boy had been kidnaped three days earlier from his uncle's home where he was spending a vacation.

Sheriff George Smith of Leflore County said the men admitted taking Till from his uncle's home but said they released him unharmed.

Hundreds turned out today in Chicago for the boy's funeral. Burial had been scheduled for Saturday but his mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley, postponed the funeral so everyone could "see what they did to my boy."

MURDER TRIAL DATE SET

Accused Slayer of Negro Boy to Face Jury on Sept. 19

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 9 (UP) —Two white men charged with murdering a Negro boy who directed a "wolf whistle" at the wife of one will go on trial Sept. 19.

Circuit Judge Curtis M. Swango set the date today after prosecution and defense attorneys said they saw no reason for delaying the trial of Roy Bryant and his half-brother, J. W. Milam.

Mr. Bryant and Mr. Milam are charged with kidnaping and killing Emmett Till, 14 years old, of Chicago, because the boy had whistled at Mr. Bryant's wife. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People charged the slaying was a lynching.

The dead boy's mother said she was willing to come here from Chicago to testify if assured "adequate protection."

The death penalty is mandatory for convicted murderers unless the jury recommends mercy.

DEFENDANTS ENTER PLEAS OF INNOCENCE IN SLAYING OF YOUTH

Commercial Appeal
Wed 9-7-55

Bryant, Milam Indicted On Charges Of Kidnaping And Murder

FAST TRIAL INDICATED

No Bond Asked By Defense Attorneys—Hearing Date Will Be Fixed Tomorrow —Jurors Act Swiftly

By WILLIAM SORRELS
Staff Writer

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 6.—Two white men indicted on murder and kidnap counts in the death of a Chicago Negro youth entered pleas of not guilty late Tuesday.

Arraigned before Judge Curtis M. Swango, Roy Bryant, 24-year-old Money, Miss., storekeeper, and his half-brother, J. W. Milam, 36, of Glendora, Miss., heard the indictments read by Dist. Atty. Gerald Chatham. The men declared they are not guilty on either count.

The defendants entered their pleas at 4:50 p.m., six hours after the Tallahatchie County Grand Jury returned true bills charging them with the kidnap-slaying of Emmett L. Till, 14-year-old Chicago Negro.

Beaten and Shot

Till's body was recovered from the Tallahatchie River last Wednesday. He had been beaten about the head and shot and his body was weighted with a heavy cotton gin fan.

Judge Swango said he will set the trial date at 9 Thursday morning. Mr. Chatham and defense attorneys indicated the trial will be heard during this term of court.

There was no indication whether the men would be tried first on the murder charge or the kidnap count. Whether the men will be tried separately or jointly must also be decided.

Before entering the courtroom here, the men were taken to a Summer barber shop for a quick shave and haircut. They were under armed guard, but were not handcuffed.

Sheriff H. C. Strider said the brothers were brought here from Greenville, Miss. They had been moved there secretly from the Leflore County jail at Greenwood late Sunday.

No Bond Asked

After the men conferred with attorneys, they were taken to the Tallahatchie County jail at Charleston. Sheriff Strider said facilities here are inadequate.

Defense attorneys did not ask for bond, another indication the trial will come in this court term.

Till was taken from his uncle's home on Aug. 28, four days after he reportedly made remarks and "wolf whistled" at Mrs. Roy Bryant, an attractive 21-year-old mother of two.

Sheriff George Smith of Leflore County said Bryant and Milam told him they took the youth from his uncle's home the same day in front of the Bryant's store at Money.

Tallahatchie County Deputies Garland Melton and Ben F. Selby brought the defendants from Greenville. In Greenwood, Sheriff Smith released National Gupardsmen who had been on duty since Sunday night. He had the men taken to the Greenville jail for safe keeping before the guard was called out and after reports of a possible demonstration.

'Not Surprising'

Attorneys said the joint indictments on separate counts of murder and kidnaping was not surprising. They pointed out that a person charged with kidnaping may be tried in the county where the abduction took place or in any county where the victim was taken.

The Grand Jury was in session only one hour Tuesday. It heard testimony from Mose Wright, 64-year-old uncle of the victim, and Till's cousin, Simeon Wright, 18.

Dr. L. B. Otken of Greenwood, was summoned here Tuesday but was not called before the jury. Dr. Otken examined the boy's body after it was pulled from the river.

Judge Swango commended the jurors for their service and attention to duty and dismissed them after receiving 10 true bills including the Till indictment.

Shortly after Jerry Falls, jury foreman, handed in the indictment, Sheriff Stricler said "through co-operative law enforcement and Tallahatchie County friends, we have been able to produce enough evidence to get an indictment."

'Accroding To Law'

He added "we intend to try these men according to law."

The sheriff said he was sure all parties would receive fair treatment.

"As far as any racial issue," said the sheriff, "this element does not enter into the picture. This case, as well as other presented to my office, receive due consideration regardless of race, color or creed involved."

He hit at outside interference.

"At no time has Tallahatchie ever made any suggestions as to how Cook County (Chicago), Ill., or the NAACP should run their business," he declared, "nor do we intend for them to tell us how we should run ours."

Court will not be in session Wednesday.

CHICAGO, Sept. 6. — (UP) — Hundreds of mourners joined the grieving family of 14-year-old Emmett L. Till in attending last rites for the slain Chicago youth Tuesday.

Burial was in Burr Oak Cemetery at suburban Alsip for the teenager, slain in Mississippi where he was vacationing with relatives.

The procession of almost 100 automobiles made the 10-mile trip to the cemetery.

His widowed mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley, broke down as the casket was lowered into the earth.

"Darling, Darling, I hope you'll rest now eternally," she sobbed.

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Sept. 6.—(UP)—Tht death of a 14-year-old Chicago Negro whose accused curderers were indicted by a Mississippi Grand Jury was listed Tuesday as a lynching by the department of Tuskegee Institute.

Jessie Guzman, director of the Negro college's records and research department, said, "The circumstances surrounding the death of Tmmett Till classified his death as a lynching."

Tells On Till

Advertiser
Fri. 9-23-55
Montgomery Ala

Mother Testifies He Sought Date

By ARTHUR EVERETT

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 22 (AP) — Mrs. Roy Bryant, 21, testified today that a Negro caught her around the waist and asked her for a date.

Mrs. Bryant's husband and his half-brother are on trial for the slaying of Emmett (Bobo) Till, a 14-year-old Negro from Chicago's South Side. The youth's battered body was taken from the Tallahatchie River Aug. 31.

Mrs. Bryant gave her testimony with the jury absent.

Circuit Judge Curtis Wango Jr. ruled her testimony was inadmissable before the jury because the alleged encounter between Mrs. Bryant and Till occurred three days before the boy's abduction.

But, the judge gave the defense the right to put Mrs. Bryant's story on the court records in the absence of the jury.

Mother Of Two

The pretty mother of two children said she was alone in her husband's store at Money, Miss., when a "negro man came in the store and stopped at the candy case."

"I walked up to the candy counter" and got the candy he wanted. "I held out my right hand for some money. He caught my hand" in a strong grip, Mrs. Bryant said.

Mrs Bryant said she freed her hand and the "man" said, "How about a date, baby?"

"I turned and started to the back of the stores," she said, where her two children, Mrs. Milam and her two children were in the living quarters.

"He caught me at the cash register . . . both hands on my waist.

"He said, 'What's the matter, baby Can't you take it? You need not be afraid of me.'"

Unprintable Word

She said the "man" said an unprintable word as she freed herself. She hesitated, then refused to repeat the word or say what letter it began with.

She said the Negro then told her, "I've been with white women before."

The slim brunette said a "Southern Negro" then came into the store, caught the "man" by the arm and pulled him out.

As Mrs. Bryant finished her story of what happened the night of Aug. 24, defense attorneys again asked Judge Swango to allow her to testify in the presence of the jury.

The judge repeated his previous ruling the incident happened too long a time before Till disappeared to be connected with his abduction and killing.

Mrs. Milam Called

Defense attorneys then called Mrs Milam, wife of the second accused man.

Mrs. Bryant was the first witness called by the defense.

After the state rested its case at 1:56 p.m. CST, Judge Swango denied a defense motion for a directed verdict of acquittal.

He told defense attorneys:

"The motions will be overruled because the court is of the opinion that the evidence presented by the State of Mississippi presents issues for the determination of the jury."

Before resting, the state introduced testimony tending to place Till and one of the defendants in a Sunday scene of "licks and hollering."

"I knew it without a shadow of a doubt," she said of the body when it was returned to her later in Chicago.

The predominantly white crowd of some 300 in the courtroom listened in silence. On her way to the stand she walked through the crowd without anyone paying her more than normal attention.

For the fourth day in a row, heat in the 90s—it has hit as high as 118 in the courtroom—made a steambath out of the crowded area. With the exception of a few lawyers and newspapermen, males in

courtroom have been in shirt sleeves. Most of them tieless.

Soft drinks were sold in the courtroom. A young boy silently walked the aisle with a case of bottled pop. Previously, spectators had been allowed to bring in their own drinks.

Young Reed followed Mrs. Bradley to the stand. He was one of six witnesses uncovered by the state since the trial began Monday. The state expected his testimony to place the Till boy in the company of at least one of the defendants some hours after he was kidnaped. Testimony until now has left a time gap of three days between the abduction and the finding of the body.

In oral statements to authorities, placed on record yesterday, Bryant and Milam admitted abducting Till. But they said they released him unharmed a short time later in front of the Bryant grocery in Money, Miss.

Young Reed testified he saw Till four or five hours after the kidnaping about 40 miles away from the Bryant store.

Reed said he was walking along a gravel road to a crossroads store about 6:30 or 7 o'clock the morning of Sunday, Aug. 28. Till had been abducted from his uncle's shack about 2 or 2:30 a.m. The witness said Till was riding on the back of a small green and white pickup truck.

Reed said the truck was rolling along near the Drew, Miss., farm home of Leslie Milam, brother of the defendant and half-brother of Bryant. Reed testified he didn't know it was Till at the time but recognized him later from pictures.

Shown a picture of Till, Reed testifield:

"This is the boy I seen on the back of the truck."

Reed testified the truck turned in at the Leslie Milam farm.

Reed stood up and pointed his left hand at J. W. Milam in the courtroom after he was asked to identify him.

"Later that morning did you see J. W. Milam out there?" he was asked in reference to the Drew area barn.

"Yes, sir," Reed replied.

Q. State whether or not he had on anything unusual?

A. Yes, sir, he had on a pistol. He went to the well to get a drink of water. Then he went back to the barn.

Q. Where did he come from when he went to the well?

A. From the barn.

Q. Did you hear or see anything there?

A. Yes, sir. I heard licking and somebody hollering.

Q. What were they hollering?

A. Hollering "'Oh," more than once.

Q. How many licks did you hear?

A. A whole lot of licks.

Mrs. Milam, 27, wore a gray cotton summer dress.

Her testimony was brief. She told of her husband's service record in World War II.

She said he was wounded in Germany and was awarded the Purple Heart.

Both women as they finished their testimony had the opportunity for a courtroom reunion with thei husbands. Since testimony began yesterday, the two women and other prospective witnesses have been isolated in another room.

Mrs. Bryant, dressed in black, sat down beside her husband. He put his arm around her.

Third defense witness was Sheriff H. C. Strider of Tallahatchie County, who went down to the river when the body was found Aug. 31.

He described it as "in mighty bad shape."

When the state objected to this as a conclusion, Strider launched into a detailed description of the body's condition.

The state has referred to a small hole above the body's left ear as a bullet hole. Strider said he didn't know what caused the hole but when he probed it with a small stick he could penetrate the skull.

He described the advance state of decomposition in which he found the body. Defense Atty. Sidney Carlton asked:

"What, Mr. Strider, is your opinion as to how long this particular body had been in the river?"

"At least 10 days, if not 15," replied the sheriff.

He said he had taken many bodies from the same Tallahatchie River.

If the body was that of Till, it could not have been in the river more than three days.

But, on cross-examination, the state asked Strider:

"You know don't you that a body wounded and beat up will decompose much faster than one which isn't?"

"Well, I guess so," replied Strider, "yes, sir."

At another point in his description of the body, Strider said: "I couldn't say if he was my son or anybody else's."

Under cross-examination, Strider said he signed a death certificate in connection with the body but he didn't know whether Emmett Till's name was on it.

At the conclusion of Strider's testimony, the defense was granted a brief recess after it informed the court it had only two or three remaining witnesses.

William Reed, gangling Negro youth, testified he heard the noises coming from a country barn shortly after dawn, Aug. 28.

Moments earlier, he claimed, four white men had driven up to the barn with 14-year-old Emmett (Bobo) Till, later found slain.

During the incident, Reed said, he saw defendant John W. Milam, emerge from the barn, drink water from the well, then retur nto the barn.

"Did you see him before you heard some noise in the barn and hollering?" Reed was asked.

"After I heard it," the 18-year-old witness replied.

Plead Innocent

Milam, 36, and his half-brother, Roy Bryant, 24, are accused of kidnaping and slaying Till, a South Side Chicago boy. Both men have pleaded innocent.

Till on vacation in Mississippi last August, allegedly wolf-whistled at Bryant's attractive wife, Carolyn, 21.

The defense also claims to have evidence he talked or acted indecently toward her.

Young Reed testified he saw four white men drive Till up to the country barn in a small truck. His grandfather, Add Reed, 65, also said he saw such a truck outside the barn that morning.

Reported Incident

Mary (Mandy) Bradley, 50-year-old Negro woman, who lives within sight of the barn, testified she looked out the window after young Reed reported the incident to her.

She continued:

"I saw four white men, but I don't know who they were. They were just coming in and out of the barn, but I don't know what they were doing. I didn't see them doing anything but going in and out. One went to the well and got a drink of water and went back. The man that went to the well was a tall man with a bald head."

Milam, in prior testimony, was described in almost the same fashion.

The Bradley woman said that before the men drove off in the truck they backed it up to the barn.

Mrs. Bradley was the 12th and final witness.

State Rests Case

As she concluded at 1:56 p.m. CST the state rested and turned the case of Emmett Till over to the defense.

Bryant and Milam are being tried in Tallahatchie County. Young Till was kidnaped in Leflore County. The incident described by Reed allegedly took place in Sunflower County. All three counties adjoin in northwestern Mississippi, famed as the Delta cottonland.

The boy was kidnaped from his sharecropped uncle's cottonfield shack Aug. 28. Three days later, a nude Negro body was found in the Tallahatchie River 15 miles away. It was weighted and bore a bullet hole in the head.

The defense questions the identity of the body as Till's.

Today the youngster's widowed mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley, 33, no relation to the other Bradley woman, bowed her head and wept, rocking slowly from side to side, as she identified a picture of the Tallahatchie River body as that of her son.

Reed testified he continued on to the store and went back home to get ready for Sunday schoo.

Q. On the way back did you see or hear anything from anybody.

Q. No, sir.

Q Was the truck gone?

A. Yes, sir.

Under defense cross-examination, Reed wavered slightly from previous testimony. Where he had originally said there were seven persons in the truck—four white and three Negro—he now claimed to have seen eight, four of each.

Witness Vague

The witness was also vague as to how far away he was from the truck. But he claimed he had a clear view of the Negro boy h identified as Till.

The best Reed was able to estimate his distance from the barn where he claimed he saw Milam emerge from the barn was about 400 yards.

Q (by the defense). Was Mr. J. W. Milam driving that truck?

A. I don't know, sir.

Q. Did you see Mr. J. W. Milam in the truck?

A. No sir.

Q. You wouldn't say Mr. Milam was inside the truck?

A. No, sir, I wouldn't.

Twice the defense tried to get Reed's testimony stricken from the record. Each time, the court refused.

Dramatic Impact

The high point of dramatic impact thus far in the trial was the entrance into the courtroom of Mrs Bradley to testify in her son's slaying

For a fleeting moment her eyes scanned the spectators in apparent confusion. But the audience was quiet and she then proceeded to the witness stand. The short, plump woman in a gray and white suit with a black and gray jacket wore a small black hat.

It was Mrs. Bradley's introduction to a forgotten past. Born just three miles from this Delta town, she had been taken away at the age of two. Now she was back, seeking to sustain the state's case against two Delta men accused of killing her boy.

Her testimony, with scarcely a trace of her native accent, touched only on identification of her son's body.

"The first time I saw it it was still in the casket," she said of the return of young Till's body to Chicago for a funeral that drew an estimated 10,000.

"I positively identify the body I saw in the casket laying on the slab as my son, Emmett Louis Till. I just looked at it all over thoroughly and I was able to determine it was the body of my son. I knew it without a shadow of a doubt."

Then she identified a silver ring taken from the body in the river as one Till had put on in Chicago. It had belonged to the boy's father, who died overseas in service in 1945.

8822



CONGRESSMAN Charles C. Diggs, Jr. of Detroit, First Negro elected to Congress from the state of Michigan, Mrs. Mamie Bradley, of Chicago, mother of Emmitt Louis Till, and his uncle, Mose Wright are shown at Sumner, Mississippi where the famous "Wolf Whistle" trial started Tuesday morning.

Question of Identity????

Courier

Jury Believed What It Wanted to Believe

Sat. 10-1-55

P. 8

SUMNER, Miss.—One of the points stressed by defense counsel . . . and one which apparently "influenced" the decision of the jury (if such were possible) . . . was the question of identity.

The jury chose not to believe the statement of Mrs. Mamie Bradley that the boy, whose body was viewed by 100,000 people in Chicago several weeks ago . . . was that of her son.

Pittsburgh Pa.

INSTEAD, THEY BELIEVED the story of Sheriff H. C. Strider who said: "The body appeared to have been in the river at lease ten days . . . if not fifteen."

They chose to believe the testimony of H. D. Malone, a mortician, who estimated the body had been immersed in the river for from ten to twenty-five days.

They chose to believe the testimony of Dr. L. B. Otken, a physician, who put the time at "eight days to two weeks."

The jury chose to believe these three . . . despite the fact that all admitted injuries could have speeded up decomposition.

Remains Calm

Courier

Till's Mom Is Star Witness!

Sat. 10-1-55

P. 3

By JAMES L. BOYACK

SUMNER, Miss.—The identity of the body found in the river was the crucial evidence in deciding for an acquittal in the "wolf whistle" murder case here.

The defense produced witnesses who threw grave doubt in the minds of the jury as to whether the body found actually was that of Emmet Till.

Here is the story told on the witness stand by Mrs. Mamie Bradley, 33, the boy's mother.

An Air Force Procurement Division civil service employe, Mrs. Bradley was neatly dressed in a gray dress with a black jacket. She wore diamond earrings.

Pittsburgh Pa.

MRS. BRADLEY first was questioned by Robert B. Ripley, special prosecutor. Her husband died in service, July 2, 1945.

Under questioning, Mrs. Bradley said she was advised by Mrs. Curtice Jones living with Moses Wright that Emmet was in some kind of trouble. She said Emmet left Chicago Aug. 20.

She said she first saw the body of her son in the Rainer Funeral Parlor in Chicago.

"It was in a casket," she told the prosecutor. The body was clothed. It was found naked in the Tallahatchie River.

Asked a direct question, she replied: "I positively identified my son the first time I saw him."

She said she made careful examination of he body. She noted the hairline, the ears and the lips, and made a careful study of his features.

"He was my boy beyond any shadow of a doubt."

* * *

SHE TESTIFIED that among the effects sent her was a ring and that it was engraved with her husband's initials, L. T.—for Louis Till.

Mrs. Bradley explained that since the age of 12 Emmet used to wear it occasionally, but it was too big for him. "He used to wear it with scotch tape or string on it so that it wouldn't slip off his finger."

The star witness testified that on Aug. 20 before he left Chicago he took the ring out of a jewelry box where she kept it and put it on his finger.

"He definitely was wearing it when he left Chicago," she said.

The state put into evidence a photo taken of the body made by C. E. Strickland, identification officer of Greenwood.

Handed the picture, Mrs. Bradley swore it was that of her son. The photo and that of the cotton gin fan tied around the lynch victim's neck when he was found was passed around the jury and placed in evidence as Exhibit 1.

At this point, Judge Swango asked the jury to retire.

Chief Defense Counsel J. J. Breland brought out that the star witness was born at Webb, Miss., two miles from Sumner. She left at the age of two and arrived at Argo near Chicago in January, 1933.

* * *

MRS. BRADLEY revealed under cross-examinaton that from birth she had two insurance policies on Emmet. The beneficiaries were her mother and herself.

At this point, Breeland, the dean of the Sumner lawyers, tried to involve Mrs. Bradley with editorial policy of the Chicago Defender. He elicited that she read the paper.

Objection by the prosecutor was sustained by the court.

Breeland continued with a different line of questioning. "Did you caution him how to behave in Mississippi?," he asked. The witness said "Yes."

"I told him several times that he should apologize if he insulted a white man," she explained.

The witness who was being harassed by the counsel related that she told her son to say "Yes, sir" at all times. She said he should humble himself on his knees even if he just brushed a white man on the street.

She said on the witness stand: "Be very careful. It is a different way of life." Mrs. Bradley who could not be shaken in her testimony, in spite of the badgering, brought out that Emmet never had been in trouble of any kind.

* * *

WHEN THE defense counsel described her residence in Chicago as being in the "Black Belt," Mrs. Bradley reminded him that some very fine white folks live there too."

New York Advocate

Sat. 10-1-55

P. 1

Congressman Sees Miscarriage of Justice in Emmett Till Trial

Jackson, Miss.

25,000 Attend New York Rally

New York, N. Y. Sept. 26 — (DSN)—Rep. Victor L. Anfuso, a Democrat Congressman from New York wired U. S. Attorney General Herbert Brownell, Jr., asking an immediate investigation of the Till trial after a protest rally attended by an estimated crowd of 25,000 here Sunday.

Rep. Anfuso said following his message to Brownell he otherwise will ask Congress to undertake a probe when it reconvenes in January.

The Justice Department has already said the government had no jurisdiction in the Till case.

The rally was sponsored by the New York Division of the Brotherhood of sleeping Car Porters and the NAACP. Advocate

The throng attending the rally packed the William's Institutional Christian Church and the streets outside. P. 6

Mrs. Mamie Bradley, mother of the slain boy who attended the trial at Sumper, Miss., was present at the rally. In reference to her son, she said, "I cannot allow myself to believe he died in vain."

The principal speakers at the rally were: Roy Wilkins, NAACP Executive Secretary, Earl Brown, New York City Negro Councilman, and Rev. D. N. Micorish, assistant pastor of famed Abysinian Baptist Church.

There were cheers of approval when Rev. Micorish called for a new march on Dixie.

Councilman Brown urged a Mississippi Refugee Committee to evacuate every Negro from the state, saying no Negro can hope to be raised as a normal human being in Mississippi.

Roy Wilkins laughed when in response to his question, "What's to be done about it, the audience started chanting, march, march, march.

Wilkins said he doubted the marchers would get beyond South Terry, the lower tip of Manhattan Island.

"It's time to stop being emotional and be smart," he said, urging Negroes to contact Democratic party block captains, district leaders and state chairmen to demand that the party "clean up this mess in Mississippi."

"Marked man here for Till

Tribune Los Angeles, Calif.

Fri, 10-7-55

Leaving his California-born wife behind in his home which is guarded 24 hours a day by a two-man security patrol, the "marked man of Mississippi", Dr. Theodore R. M. Howard, whom Kluxist elements in Mississippi have reportedly earmarked for death, will fly into Los Angeles late tonight or early tomorrow morning for press conferences and Sunday's Emmett Till Protest meeting, to bring Angelenos an eyewitness report of the Till trial and of the state of tension existing in Mississippi today.

California-trained Dr. Howard, who is president of the Mississippi Regional Council of Negro Leadership, besides having been elected here in Los Angeles last August president-elect of the National Medical Ass'n., and maintaining the only hospital in Mound Bayou, Mississippi all-Negro town, will speak at Second Baptist church Sunday afternoon at three o'clock under auspices of the local branch Naacp.

Mrs. Mamie Bradley, mother of murdered, 14-year-old Emmett Till, will not be here.

Held by previous committments in the East, she will come to the Coast next month and arrangements will be made by the local Naacp to present her here.

But yesterday afternoon, in the local Naacp office, remarks Mrs. Bradley would probably have made at Sunday's meeting, were recorded by telephone, plus questions and answers, and will be played to the crowd of more than 3000 which is expected to jam the 24th and Griffith church Sunday.

Tribune

Among questions scheduled to be asked the mother was one posed by the Tribune — has the young mother taken any further steps to definitely establish the identity of the corpse as her son, a point disputed and held inconclusive in the trial of Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam for the murder. P. 2

In spite of such surface identification as a ring, and her own recognition of one side of the boy's brutally battered face, the identification was held as inconclusive, and it was brought out at the trial that Mrs. Bradley has thus far been unable to collect her son's insurance. Fri, 10-7-55

When he speaks Sunday, Dr. Howard will doubtlessly tell how the prosecution, which he accused of being insincere, failed to introduce expert testimony such as that of anthropologists, which in spite of the bloating of tissue, could have established definitely from bones the age of the corpse, which the defense contended was not the body of a 14-year-old boy at all, but of an older man.

Dr. Howard acted as a liaison between the State's attorneys and witnesses, some of whom he discovered and at least one of whom, 18-year-old Willie Reed, he gave sanctuary in his home throughout the trial. He also was host to the lynched boy's mother and to Congressman Charles C. Diggs, of Michigan, who attended the trial in order to see "Mississippi injustice at work."

Till boy's uncle takes lifetime job in N. J. nursery

Tribune P. 3 Los Angeles, Calif.

MONEY, Miss. — Mose Wright, uncle of Emmett Louis Till and fingerman in the charges that two white men, Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam, kidnapped young Till from his home and later murdered him, has accepted a lifetime job offered him by a Long Island flower nursery. Fri 10-7-55

Before leaving his tenant farm home, Wright said he would be back to testify against Bryant and Milam before the Leflore County Grand Jury which will hear the kidnap charge against the two, acquitted of the murder, on Nov. 7.

Wright said he has received "stacks of letters" since his testimony, much of it containing money and offers of jobs; none of it, he said, from the South.

33 cities slate Till murder protest meetings

Tribune P. 3 Los Angeles, Calif.

NEW YORK — Mass protest meetings on the Mississippi trial verdict which acquitted two white men of murdering 14-year-old Emmett Louis Till, have been drawing huge crowds throughout the U. S., the Naacp said here today.

Some 15,000 persons attended a New York meeting on Sept. 25, which was addressed by Mrs. Mamie Bradley, mother of the lynch victim. An overflow crowd in the streets listened to the proceedings via loudspeakers. Traffic in the area had to be rerouted by the police. Fri 10-7-55

A similar meeting was held the same afternoon in the Bronx.

In Detroit a mass meeting drew approximately 15,000 persons, who heard Rep. Charles Diggs (D-Mich.), an observer at the trial. The crowd contributed $14,000 to the Naacp. 10-7-55

A public meeting sponsored by the local Naacp in Dothan, Ala., on Sept. 25, had as its speaker New York Judge Hubert T. Delany.

A Youngstown, Ohio meeting was addressed by Mrs. Ruby Hurley, southeastern regional Naacp secretary who attended the trial as an observer.

On Sept. 27 Rep. Adam C. Powell (D-N. Y.) called for an emergency session of Congress for the purpose of enacting federal anti-lynching laws. The New York Criminal and Civil Courts Bar Ass'n. has announced that it will sponsor a federal anti-lynching law.

Meetings have been scheduled in 35 cities in 19 states with the Till boy's mother, Rep. Diggs, Mrs. Hurley, scheduled to speak.

Members of Concord Baptist Church in Brooklyn, the Rev. Gardner Taylor, pastor, sent a check for $1000 to the Naacp fight.

L. A. mothers gather names protesting Till lynching

Tribune Los Angeles, Calif.

Four pages of signatures, calling upon the Federal Government "to prosecute and punish the child killers to guarantee the future safety and protection of all children," were sent to the Tribune this week for forwarding to "whereever they will do the most good." P. 3 Fri. 10-7-55

Addressed to President Eisenhower, the petitions deplored the lynching of Emmett Louis Till in Mississippi, of which "we, residents of Los Angeles, read with horror."

The 48 names were secured by five women, describing themselves as "A few of us mothers (who) read with indignation and shame of the lynch-murder."

Distraught Mother Weeps At News Of Son's Murder

CHICAGO — Mrs Mamie Bradley, mother of 14-year-old Emmett Till, Miss. lynch victim wept at the news of son's death. "I can't think, I just can't think. He didn't do anything to deserve that. Somebody is going to pay for this. The entire State of Mississippi is going to pay for this."

Emmett was funeralized Saturday. Thousands viewed the battered body.

She sobbingly continued: "I can't work. I have nothing left to work for. My whole life is ruined. Now I need all the financial help I can get.

"Emmett was a good boy," said Mrs Bradley. "I know he didn't do anything wrong.

"Emmett was mischievous, but he was not a bad boy," she said. "He's never been in any trouble. He's been my life saver—did the washing, ironing and housework so I could work. He has stood by me like a man. How could anyone do this terrible thing to him?"

Emmett was an eighth grader at the McCosh School. He was born in Chicago and had been in Mississippi only once before on a visit five years ago. His grandfather, Henry Spearman, has been a Chicago resident thirty years and is a plant guard for the Inland Steel Container Company.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington said it was keeping in close touch with Sheriff Smith on the case but had made no move to intervene because there had been no showing yet of a Federal law violation.

The FBI could move in if there was evidence of violation of civil rights laws or that the kidnaping involved crossing a state line.

Hundreds turned out Monday in Chicago for the boy's funeral. Burial had been scheduled for Saturday but his mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley, postponed the funeral so everyone could "see what they did to my boy."

ble, and I don't think we'll need any National Guardsmen. Things like this happen every day in Chicago, St. Louis and other northern cities and there is never any furor about it."

TWO WHITES INDICTED FOR KILLING YOUTH

SUMNER, Miss. — Tuesday two white men were indicted for the kidnap-murder of 14-year-old Emmett Louis Till of Chicago.

Roy Bryant, 24, and J. W. Milam, 35, his halfbrother, denied they killed the youth who allegedly whistled at a white woman.

Trial date was expected to be set this Thursday morning by Circuit Judge Curtis Swango, Jr. Sheriff H. C Stride said a three-week term of court began Monday and that "we expect to try them in this term of court."

Meanwhile, the research department of Tuskegee Institute, long recognized as the authority on lynchings, listed the murder as a lynching.

Tuskegee Institute classifies a lynching as an act of murder participated in by at least three persons. Evidence in the Till case showed that the wife of one of defendants was in the automobile when the youth was kidnapped from his uncle's home.

Institute officials said "The woman might not have had a part in the actual slaying, but she was along when the boy was kidnapped."

The Tallahatchie County grand jury was composed of white planters. Indictments covered both the kidnapping and murder charges. Murder carries a maximum sentence of death, with a minimum of life in prison. The kidnapping statue under which they were indicted provides a maximum 10-year prison term.

Till's body, a bullet in his head and a 100-pound cotton gin fan tied to his neck to weight him down, was pulled from the Tallahatchie River last Wednesday.

The boy was kidnapped three days earlier from his uncle's home where he was spending a planned two-week vacation that ended in death after one week.

Young Till allegedly whistled or made "ugly remarks" to Mrs. Bryant, wife of the Money storekeeper.

Sheriff George Smith of Leflore County said the men admitted taking Till from his uncle's home but said they released him unharmed.

Trial Date To Be Set Today; Suspects Jailed Without Bond

SUMNER, Miss. — (SNS) — The possibility arose Wednesday that two Mississippi white men, charged with the lynch-murder of a 14-year-old Negro boy, Emmett Louis Till from Chicago, might be tried within the next three weeks. It had been previously stated that the pair, Roy Bryant and his half brother, J. W. Milan, would not be tried before early next year.

Circuit Judge Curtis Swango, Jr. stated that he would set the trial date today. According to Sheriff H. C. Strider, the trial will be set for this term of court. The term began Monday and will last for three weeks.

Meanwhile, the two men have been jailed in the Tallahatchie County Jail in Charleston, Mississippi.

INDICTED TUESDAY

The two men were indicted Tuesday for murder by an all-white grand jury. Both entered pleas of innocent. Because of the possibility of a trial in the near future, bond was not set for the pair.

Mississippi law calls for a sentence of death in the event the two men are convicted without recommendation of mercy; if mercy is recommended, the penalty called for is life imprisonment.

In Chicago, the dead youth's aunt, Mrs. Elizabeth Wright, again raised the question of the number of men who abducted the youth from the home and the number now under arrest. The witnesses at the abduction, including Mrs. Wright, maintain that there were three men who came to the house early Sunday morning demanding "that boy from Chicago."

'ONLY TWO' SAYS SHERIFF

However, Sheriff George Smith, who was not present at the abduction, said that he was convinced that threre were only two men involved. Sheriff Strider has stated, despite positive identification of the body by the victim's own mother and uncle, that he is "not sure at all" that the body recovered from the Tallahatchie River was that of the missing youth.

Also missing from the scene is the wife of Roy Bryant — the woman who allegedly was the cause of the whole incident. It was the who reportedly was "wolf-whistled" at by Young Till and also she who, according to witnesses identified him as the "right one" when the two (or three) men went to the farm home to take the 14-year-old boy.

Also in Chicago, an unidentified "NAACP Lawyer" stated that he would definitely file a $100,000 damage suit against Bryant and Milam if the men escape "death in the gas chamber."

Meanwhile, the little town of Sumner — total population 650 — went about its business as though nothing had happened.

Sumner's Negro residents — most of whom are sharecroppers and tenant farmers — unanimously refuse to discuss the case with strangers.

TOO BUSY TO TALK

But Dr. E. L. Biles, Mayor of Sumner, said this was not from fear — it's because they are busy.

"I personally have been too busy delivering babies and haven't even had a chance to get over to the post office," Biles said.

"Cottonpicking is just getting underway and most everybody else is busy in the fields. Even the arraignment didn't create too much excitement among white or Negro residents."

SANE INTEREST

He added, however, "some of the residents have a passing interest in the case and want to see justice done."

Biles charged that Sumner is "the whipping post regarding publicity" in the case. Bryant and Milam are from Money, and the boy abducted from there. However, his body was found in the Tallahatchie River near Sumner.

"The Delta is unusually quiet," said Biles. "We don't expect trou-

Chicago Mayor Demands Action In Lynching Case

CHICAGO — (NNPA) — Mayor Daley added his voice Thursday to the demands of indignant Chicagoans and other Americans for punishment of the kidnap-murderers of a 14-year-old Chicago colored boy who was spending a brief, pre-school vacation in the delta cotton belt of Mississippi.

The body of Emmett Louis Till, the son of Mrs. Mamie Bradley, was found Wednesday in the Tallahatchie River near Greenwood, Mississippi. He had been murdered and his body weighted with a heavy wheel. The boy had been missing since he was kidnapped early Sunday (August 28) from the home of his uncle.

"It is regrettable and unfortunate that a young boy was subjected to violence like this," said Mayor Daley. "All of us in America resent acts of brutality and violence perpetrated by anyone and especially on a child. I hope the full forces of the Federal Government, as well as those of local authorities, will be used to carry out justice in this case."

President Eisenhower was asked to act to assure an investigation of kidnap-murder.

"The citizens of my race and countless thousands of others in Chicago are very much concerned because of the murder of this young lad," William Henry Huff, Chicago attorney for the NAACP, wrote the President.

"This dastardly act on the part of these criminal-minded persons is so outrageous that it opens the door for condemnation of the United States," Huff wrote, adding:

"This occasion warrants that you speak out in no uncertain terms. We are expecting you to do so. We are expecting you to order a ful and thorough investigation of this."

The murdered boy's mother meanwhile, disclosed that she had secured the services of a Chicago undertaker to bring the boy's body back to Chicago just in time to prevent a hasty burial in a cemetery at Tutwiler, Mississippi.

"We had to stop burial down there," said Mrs. Bradley. "We got word to them just in time."

Friends and neighbors called at the home of Mrs. Bradley's parents Mr. and Mrs. Henry Spearman, where Mrs. Bradley took all phone calls during the three-day search for the boy.

denied the right to vote in southern states should have the "immediate and constant attention" of the Attorney - General.

The Detroit Congressman repeated his promise to challenge the seating of every Mississippi representative. He cited amendment 14, Section 2 of the Constitution as supporting him in this move. According to figures he has

Rep Diggs Outlines Program Of Action On Civil Rights

The Department of Justice and the leaders of both major political parties are mentioned as targets in Congressman Charles C. Diggs, Jr.'s five point program to press for strong national civil rights legislation. Michigan's first Negro representative outlined his plans after returning from the Emmett Till trial in Mississippi and stated that he was "thinking seriously of appealing to the President to call a special session of Congress to get effective action on the highly important issue of civil rights."

Diggs said that he would "strenuously follow up" several bills he had introduced with the intention of strengthening the Power of the Department of Justice to intervene in cases where civil liberty is threatened. He recalled that members of the Justice Department, though invited, failed to attend a special hearing arranged by the House Judiciary Committee for the purpose of formulating ways and means of authorizing intervention. This snub, Diggs declared was an indication of the "indefinite" stand on civil rights taken by the Eisenhower Administration and Attorney - General Herbert Brownell.

The Michigan representative feels that the Justice Department already has power to take the action he suggested, but has refused to do so. He intends to "test the sincerity of the Administration "by seeing whether it will support his bills when he presents them again. Diggs stated that the issue of Negroes being denied the right to vote in southern states should have the "immediate and constant attention" of the Attorney - General.

Representative Diggs appealed to Negro voters to put pressure on candidates of both Parties, to force them to include positive civil rights programs in their platforms. He stated that he will contact national leaders of the Democratic party and all prospective presidential candidates and attempt to get "definite constituents" as to their intentions.

Diggs warned Negroes in the South against any plans to make a mass migration to northern states. He said such action "would play directly into the hands of southern bigots who want to get rid of the strong potential Negro vote."

The 32 year old Congressman disclosed that he has high hopes that southern Negroes soon will gain the right to vote and that "the more around when it happens, the better."

Finally, Congressman Diggs urged all Negroes and other fair thinking Americans to contribute to the NAACP's Legal Defense Fund. He alerted contributors, however to give only to drives sponsored by or sanctioned by the NAACP.

"There are many individuals and groups," Diggs warned, "who are using the feelings aroused by the tragic Emmett Till decision to fatten their own pocket books."

Noting that Communist organization are taking an unusual interest in the situation, the Congressman said "we don't need their help to win this battle."

Wolf-Whistle Case Figures Due Here

Chairman Hennings, Democrat of Missouri, has received a plea from a local pastor that the Senate Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights look into the Emmett Till case.

Dr. Smallwood E. Williams, pastor of the Bible Way Church, wrote to Senator Hennings, pointing out that the mother of the slain 14-year-old boy, Mrs. Mamie Bradley, would be available to the committee investigators Sunday.

Mrs. Bradley and the Rev. Moses Wright, a prosecution witness in the trial of the men acquitted in the so-called "wolf-whistle murder" in Mississippi, will be in Washington to attend a mass meeting scheduled to be held in Uline Arena Sunday at 4 p.m.

The meeting, Dr. Williams says, is the beginning of a Nation-wide series of prayer meetings against what he calls "Mississippism."

Senator Hennings could not be reached for comment.

8824

Official Is Cautious On Lynch-Murder Committment

Atlanta Daily World

Fri. 9-9-55

BY LOUIS LAUTIER
Washington Correspondent
Atlanta Daily World and
NNPA News Service

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(NNPA)—After an hour and 40 minute conference with NAACP officials Wednesday afternoon, Assistant Attorney General Warren Clay III was cautious in committing the Justice Department to a course of action on violence and intimidation of colored voters in Mississippi.

After ruling out Federal jurisdiction in the kidnap-murder of Emmett Louis Till, 14-year-old Chicago boy, Mr. Olney said the other incidents which have occurred in Mississippi in recent months are under investigation.

"Until the department knows what the facts and evidence may be, and whether there is a Federal law that applies to the facts Mr. Olney said, he can give no indication of what action will be taken.

Atlanta Da.

THURGOOD MARSHALL

NAACP officials who conferred with Mr. Olney were headed by Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the association; Clarence Mitchell, head of the NAACP's Washington Bureau; Mrs. Ruby Hurley, Birmingham, southeast regional director, and Medgar Evers, Jackson, Miss., field secretary for Mississippi.

Mr. Wilkins presented to Mr. Olney a prepared statement outlining the reign of terror which has prevailed in Mississippi and which culminated in the brutal murder of Till, whose body, a bullet in his head and a 100-pound cotton gin fan tied to his neck to weight him down, was pulled from the Tallahatchi River on August 31.

Mr. Olney told reporters after the conference:

"I can say we have discussed both the facts, or rather the allegations that are set out in the memorandum and also the law in great detail with respect to each one of these incidents.

"All the incidents referred to have come to the attention of the Department of Justice and are under current investigation and have been.

"Because the inquiries are not completed, none of us are in position to express any final view as to whether the allegations are substantiated by evidence or not. But we have gone over them fully and discussed together the situation that is presented there.

EVERY ACTION

"The only assurance that anyone in the Government, in a case under circumstances such as this can give is that when the inquiries are completed, every appropriate action will be taken, depending on what the facts are and what the applicable law may be.

"I have endeavored to make it clear that we can give that assurance, but beyond that we cannot go without knowing first what the facts and evidence may be and then determining whether there is a Federal law that applies to the facts of any given case.

REIGN OF TERROR

In the memorandum, Mr. Wilkins called the brutal murder of young Till on August 28 'the logical and inevitable culmination of a reign of terror which has been generated in the State of Mississippi throughout the year.

"incubated benind a facade of respectability, afforded by the so-called White Citizens Councils of Mississippi" Mr. Wilkins said, the terrorsm began as "a thinly-gloved effort to 'persuade'" colored citizens to forfeit their right to vote, not to press for desegregation of the public schools, and to forego their demand for civil rights.

When persuasion failed, he asserted, the White Citizens Council members "resorted to economic reprisals to compel submission to their demands."

Mr. Wilkins charged that "their propaganda, their open appeals to bigotry and intolerance naturally created an atmosphere of violence," the "bitter fruits" of which were three murders, hundreds of threats of violence, a drastic reduction in the number of colored voters, and countless instances of intimidation.

Daily World

The principal events in the reign of terror listed by Mr. Wilkins were: to keep colored people from voting. Other aims are to keep segregated schools and maintain present conditions in race relations.

DEATH THREATS

P2

While claiming to abhor violence, their campaign and the language they use create an atmosphere in which death threats and murders have been tolerated by local and state law enforcement authorities.

2. White Citizens Councils have encouraged economic boycotts of colored citizens who insist upon exercising their civil rights, have sought to have militant colored persons fired from jobs, and have instigated denial of credit to farmers and small businessmen to force them to accept segregation.

3. The Rev. George W. Lee was murdered in Belzoni, Mississippi, May 7, because he refused to remove his name from the registered voters' list when local whites ordered him to do so. Nobody has been arrested for his murder.

RAVED AND RANTED

4. During the Democratic gubernatorial primaries this summer all five candidates "ranted and raved" against colored people threatening them and telling them what they would do, if elected, to keep colored people in their places

Newspapers carried inflammatory stories, editorials and letters to the editors calling upon whites to unite against colored people.

The press inveighed against all supporters of civil rights, including the Eisenhower Administration, the United States Supreme Court and the NAACP.

Race hatred was fanned white-hot with colored people as targets so that any dullard would understand that nothing would be done if violence occurred. "The green light was given to hoodlums to demean, to persecute and to kill Negroes with or without provocation."

5. As the primary campaign grew hotter, more and more pressure was exerted to force colored persons to get off the voting lists. Thousands, fearing for their lives, did so. In one county colored registration dropped from 400 to 80.

6. In Lowndes County death threats were sent through the mails to three registered colored voters.

SHOT TO DEATH

7. Lamar Smith, a registered voter, was called from his home to the courthouse in Lincoln County and shot to death on the steps on August 13.

Although two white men, Roy Bryant 24, and J. W. Milan, 35, his half-brother, have been indicted for the kidnap-murder of the Till boy, Mr. Wilkins said, "It is still necessary to take steps to prevent a whitewash of them in some farcical trial."

He said all the incidents listed call for "prompt and effective" Federal action.

Mr. Wilkins urged the Justice Department "to delay no longer in calling a halt to the jungle fury unlocked in Mississippi."

"Every moment of delay compounds the national shame," he said, adding:

"The Federal Government cannot escape responsibility by shifting the obligation to the State of Mississippi which has indicated neither a willingness nor desire to apprehend and punish the criminal killers or their respectable fronts."

WITHOUT JURISDICTION

In reply to a reporter's question, Mr. Olney admitted that the Justice Department has taken the position that it is without jurisdiction in the kidnap-murder of the Till boy.

Mr. Wilkins told reporters after the conference that the NAACP group had come to Washington to ask for prompt action by the Justice Department in the entire Mississippi situation.

He said they had pointed out that there is a reign of terror in Mississippi and that the people there are helpless because they have no protection from the state government or local officers and they must have protection from the Federal Government.

Mr. Wilkins said Mr. Marshall had pointed out that if colored citizens in Mississippi can expect nothing from either state or Federal Government, the country was in a pretty bad fix.

Asked whether he was optimistic about state prosecution of the cases he had discussed with Mr. Olney, Mr. Wilkins said:

"I do not believe at this moment there is much hope for state action in the voting cases. There is some evidence that the Till murder has shocked even Mississippians and there might be—and I underscore might be—some action there. I am not optimistic but I hope."

Mr. Wilkins said he has already taken up with Paul M. Butler, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, the matter of the disenfranchisement of colored people in Mississippi, in which Tom Tubbs the chairman of the Democratic state organization, is playing a leading role.

The NAACP secretary said he pointed out to Mr. Butler that the Democratic party was in full control of the State of Mississippi and that the state chairman had announced the holding of a meeting for the sole purpose of cutting down the number of colored voters.

"I said this was not calculated to make friends among Negroes for the Democrats," Mr. Wilkins said.

He added that he also had written to Leonard W. Hall, chairman of the Republican National Committee, urging him to use his influence to see that the executive branch of the Federal Government took action in the Mississippi case.

Assails Verdict in Till Case

Rep. Adam Clayton Powell jr., D., N. Y., said yesterday that "Mississippi has smeared the United States" in the recent acquittal of two white half-brothers accused of murdering a fourteen-year-old Negro boy. "The verdict has been one of the most tremendous victories propaganda-wise for international communism," he said. Rep. Powell was among 668 passengers from Europe aboard the United States, which docked at 8 a. m. at Pier 86, Hudson River and 46th St. He was returning from a seven-week tour of American air bases in Europe and North Africa, he said. "I consider the only thing to do now is for the Department of Justice to exhaust every angle of investigation and that an emergency session of Congress be convened to enact a Federal anti-lynching bill," he said. "Otherwise, America is definitely on the skids, even with our best friends," he said.

DR. HOWARD said that the last name of one of the men in back of the truck is "Hubbard." The physician also revealed that Henry Loggins, an employe of J. W. Milam, a brother of one of the suspected slayers is once again at work for his employer.

When Dr. Howard returns to Mississippi, it is planned that Loggins will be subjected to questioning concerning his role in the case.

Dr. Howard's appearance in Los Angeles was made before an overflow crowd at the Second Baptist Church where he told a detailed story of the "mock trial" which cleared Roy Milam and J. W. Bryant of the murder charges.

Dr. Howard warned that the Federal Government must take steps against the wave of violence which is being directed against Negroes in Mississippi.

Howard Courier Locates Two Men

CHESTER WASHINGTON

LOS ANGELES, Calif.—Dr. T. R. M. Howard of Mound Bayou, Miss. told The Courier here Saturday that the whereabouts of two key witnesses in the Emmett Till murder case are known.

Dr. Howard said that Leroy (Too Tight) Collins is now in Chicago. Collins had been held incommunicado in the Charleston, Miss., jail until the day after the Till murder trial in Sumner.

Willie Reed, teen-aged youth who saw three Negroes with Emmett Till in the back of a pickup truck before the boy was slain, is also in Chicago.

Rep. Powell Asks Boycott Of Mississippi

NEW YORK, Oct. 11 (AP)—A national boycott of everything "made in Mississippi" in retaliation for the Till murder, was advocated today by Rep. Adam Clayton Powell (D-NY).

Powell denounced the murder of 15-year-old Emmett Till, a Chicago Negro, and the acquittal of two white men charged with killing him for familiar conduct toward the wife of one of them.

The Negro congressman told a lunch crowd rally of 20,000 in the garment center that "unless something is done by the legal forces of the United States to rectify the wrong in Mississippi then America's leadership is not only going to be seriously damaged, but it is going to continue to slide downhill."

He said in Africa and Europe, from which he has just returned, the Till murder is considered "a lynching of the Statue of Liberty."

Powell urged the crowd to support him in demanding a special session of Congress to deal immediately with the Till case.



Associated Press

Rep. Adam Caylton Powell, D., N. Y., with his wife, entertainer Hazel Scott, and their son, Adam, eleven, arriving aboard the liner United States yesterday.

8825

The Mississippi Lynch-Murder

Daily World

The kidnap-murder of a young teen-ager in Mississippi last week was nothing short of a lynching. The lad was on a visit to that state with his mother who apparently was reared in the community in which the child was killed.

The story goes that he was accused of making insulting remarks in the presence or to the wife of a white store-keeper. On the following Sabbath, the youth was found killed and his body thrown into a creek. He was found by another lad while fishing.

This story is an old one. Over and over again it has been told of like crimes enacted for such frivoulous things as alleged in this account. The latest reports are to the effect that the sheriff of this (Leflore) County said that two white men, Roy Bryant, husband of the woman allegedly insulted, and J. W. Milan, his half brother already charged with kidnaping the youth, will be also charged with murder.

Atlanta, Ga.

We now come to the sad pass of seeing the ugly head of lynching move again above the troubled waters of this cold war in which we find ourselves engulfed. Traveling from the early scenes of yesterday's enactments of the orgies of rope and fagot, we come to a new order meant to obtain the same objective as the old. This Underground course is nevertheless as much of a violation of one's civil rights as the other.

We have had cases here in Georgia of such nature to be closed with — "This person came to his death at the hands of a party or parties unknown to this jury." This procedure went on, making life and property insecure and rendering a condition of fear in our rural areas.

Let 9-3-55

The tide of lynching went unstemmed and while there was a letup in those lynchings that inevitably would come to view, the number was made up in those flagrant underground methods.

Cases of this nature in order to come under jurisdiction of the Federal government must conform to the regulations by which the federal courts may take jurisdiction.

Many of these cases have been of a nature as to render them beyond the jurisdiction of the United States courts. In that the practice has been allowed to go on almost unmolested.

Those citizens who love our country and appreciate its good offices in this cold war period and its broad influence in the field of world relations, are alarmed at the situation in Mississippi. They want to see these grave dangers and agencies of fear removed from the borders of our Democracy.

Let the Mississippi murder be probed to the bottom. The wound in the breast of this poor mother, who happened to take her child on a peaceful mission down in Mississippi, can never be healed.

We realize that this section is feeling a wave of reaction as a result of recent court decisions, but change is inevitable and civilized people are expected to make it without recourse to violence and murder.

Local and state officials should move to reduce this reaction and take steps to punish the guilty. Otherwise, Congress will be compelled to pass legislation to make racial crimes subject to more severe punishment than the present federal statutes permit.

MOTHER RECEIVES THE BODY OF HER SLAIN SON



Daily World Atlanta, Ga. Wed. 9-7-55

MRS. MAMIE E. BRADLEY weeps as the body of her slain son, Emmit Louis Till, 14, arrives in Chicago from Mississippi. The boy was found in a creek with a bullet hole in his head after he had been kidnaped. Sought for questioning is Mrs Roy Bryant, at whom the boy is supposed to have whistled. Police are holding the woman's husband, Roy, 25, and his half-brother, J. W. Milan, 40. In the group (l. to r., above) are: Bishop Louis J. Ford, Gene Mabley, Mrs Bradley, Bishop Isiah Roberts.

Pair Indicted In Lynching-Murder Of 14-Year-Old Lad In Mississippi

Daily World Atlanta, Ga.
Wed. 9-7-55 p. 1

Rites Held In Chicago For Victim As Hearing Goes On

By E. J. MAYS

SUMNER, Miss. — (INS) — Two Mississippi white men were indicted for murder Tuesday in the kidnap slaying of a Chicago Negro boy accused of wolf-whistling at one of the men's wife.

While funeral services were held in Chicago for 14-year-old Emmett Louis Till, a Tallahatchie County Grand Jury in Sumner, Miss., returned joint indictments against Roy Bryant, 24, and his half-brother J. W. Milam, 36.

District Attorney Gerald Chatham of Hernando, Miss., said the pair would be arraigned later.

LYNCHING CHARGED

The sensational case has stirred nationwide attention. Charges of "lynching' were hurled by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. But Gov. Hugh White of Mississippi declared:

"Mississippi does not condone such conduct on the part of any of its citizens. It was not a lynching—it was straight murder."

Thirty National Guardsmen were assigned to patrol the Greenwood Jail where the two men are held.

Meanwhile, Sheriff H. C. Strider asserted he is "not sure at all" that the body recovered after Till's disappearance is that of the Chicago boy.

The Special Grand Jury returned the indictments after the victim's uncle, Mose Wright, testified that a ring found on the body belonged to young Till.

Bryant, of the community of Money, and Milam, of nearby Glendora, were jailed shortly after Till was spirited away Aug. 28 from his uncle's Greenwood home where he had been visiting.

POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION

Three days later a body was discovered in Tallahatchie River and identified by Till's mother as that of her son.

When the body was returned to Chicago, thousands filed past the coffin which the mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley, instructed to be kept open so "all may see what they did to my boy."

She became hysterical at the funeral Tuesday. Two hundred persons packed the Roberts Temple, Church of God in Christ, while 1,000 others milled outside.

NEGLIGENCE ACCUSED

At Sumner, Sheriff Strider said he has received letters accusing him of "not doing my duty."

"We have been able to produce enough evidence of kidnaping and murder to secure return of an indictment. We have 18 of as qualified and competent jurors as can be found anywhere.

"We intend to try this case and these men according to law the case, as well as all others, will receive due consideration regardless of race, color or creed."

Young Till's 64-year-old uncle said Bryant and Milam seized the Chicago boy, accusing him of whistling and "talking ugly" to Bryant's wife earlier that day in the man's store.

Bryant and Milam were arrested and admitted taking the boy from the uncle's home. But the two insisted they learned he was "the wrong one" and freed him.

The two were held on suspicion of kidnaping at the time the body was found.

8826

NAACP Charges 'Lynching'

Chicago Negro Boy Kidnaped by 4 In South Found Shot to Death in River

Post + Herald
Thurs. 9-1-55

GREENWOOD, Miss., Aug. 31 (AP)—The body of a 15-year-old Chicago Negro who had disappeared after he allegedly made "fresh" remarks to a white woman was found floating in the Tallahatchie River today. He had been shot through the head. P. 1

Two white men, one of them the husband of the woman allegedly insulted by the boy, earlier had been charged with kidnaping the victim, Emmett Till, from the home of his relatives here.

In New York, Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, branded the slaying a "lynching."

A 125-pound cotton-gin blower had been tied to the boy's neck to make his body sink but his feet floated to the surface, leading to the discovery.

A coroner's jury ruled that death was due to the gunshot in the temple. In addition to the bullet wound, the top of Till's head was smashed, the medical examination disclosed.

Leflore County authorities had charged Roy Bryant, a white storekeeper in the nearby Money community, and his half-brother, W. J. Milan, with kidnaping Till.

Sheriff George Smith said the boy was abducted because of the allegedly insulting remarks made to Mrs. Bryant in the Bryants' country store the night before.

Bryant and Milan, however, told police they released the boy unharmed after Mrs. Bryant told them he was "not the one" who had made offensive remarks to her.

The Bryants were said to have become offended when Till, who had visited the store with other teen-agers, spoke to Mrs. Bryant and waved "good-by."

While the NAACP called on the Government and Gov. Hugh White to take quick action in the case, the Governor said at Jackson he had not heard from anyone about the Till boy's death. Referring to the NAACP, he said: "They're in the press all the time, that gang."

In Chicago, Till's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley, assailed Mississippi, asserting that what happened to her son was an everyday occurrence and "it's like walking into a den of snakes."

Pledges Justice

White Asks Inquiry in Boy's Killing

Post + Herald
Fri. 9-2-55
P. 14

GREENWOOD, Miss., Sept. 1 (AP)—Gov. Hugh White of Mississippi today called for a complete investigation of the kidnap-killing of a bubble-gum-chewing Negro youth who allegedly wolf-whistled at a white woman.



Till

White told newsmen "Mississippi deplores such conduct on the part of any of its citizens and certainly cannot condone it."

In a telegram to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in New York, the Governor said: "Parties charged with the murder are in jail. I have every reason to believe that the court will do their duty in prosecution."

A bullet behind the ear killed 15-year-old Emmitt Louis Till soon after he was taken early Sunday morning from the tenant farm home of his uncle, Mose Wright. The kidnaping came a few hours after Till was reported to have whistled the two notes of the wolf call at Mrs. Roy Bryant, wife of a storekeeper near Money, Miss., deep in the Delta plantation country.

The storekeeper and his half-brother, J. W. Milam of Glendora, Miss., are held in Leflore County jail.

Authorities have issued a kidnap warrant for the arrest of Mrs. Bryant.

A 16-year-old cousin of the dead boy, Maurice Wright, told newsmen today about the incident which preceded Till's death. He said the Chicago youth wolf-whistled at Mrs. Bryant when a group of Negro lads went to the store for bubble gum.

NEGRO BOY FOUND SLAIN

Times P. 15
New York City

Two Men Held in Mississippi in Kidnapped Child's Death

GREENWOOD, Miss., Aug. 31 (AP)—The weighted body of a 14-year-old Negro boy, kidnapped three days ago because he was said to have made "ugly remarks" to a white woman, was taken from the Tallahatchie River today.

Times 9-1-55

The boy, Emmitt Louis Till of Chicago, who had been visiting his uncle, Mose Wright, at near-by Money, died of a bullet wound above the right ear.

Sheriff George Smith of Leflore County said two white men, already charged with kidnapping, would be charged with murder. They are Roy Bryant of Money, a storekeeper, and his half-brother, J. W. Milam of Glendora. The sheriff said Bryant had admitted taking Till from his uncle's home but said the boy was released unharmed.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People said the boy's death appeared to be a lynching and demanded vigorous prosecution.

The boy allegedly made "ugly remarks" to Mrs. Bryant, the storekeeper's wife, last week. He was buried this afternoon at Money.

SLAIN YOUTH'S BODY SEEN BY THOUSANDS

Times P. 39

CHICAGO, Sept. 3 (AP)—Services for a 14-year-old Negro boy slain while vacationing in Mississippi drew thousands of Negroes today to a South Side church where the body was placed on view.

Mourners and curious filled the Roberts Temple Church of God, where the body of Emmett Louis till was taken this morning from an undertaking chapel. Outside the church an estimated 10,000 persons stood in long lines waiting to view the body.

Herald Tribune P. 10
Sun. 9-4-55

The boy, shot in the head and beaten, was fished out of a river near Money, Miss., Wednesday, three days after he reportedly whistled at a white woman in a Money store. Two white men have been charged with his murder.

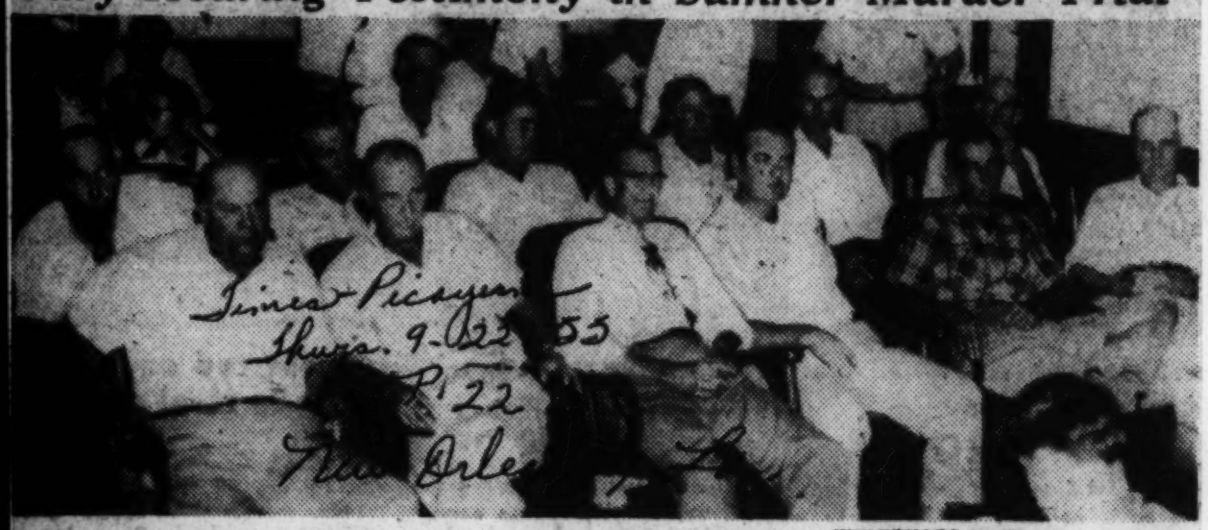
The casket was opened to public view at the insistence of the boy's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley, 33 years old. The body will remain on view Sunday and Monday.

As the lines moved past the casket a Negro minister in the pulpit urged the viewers to contribute to a fund set up by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. He said the funds would be used "so that this will not happen again."

"Pamphlets were passed out in front of the funeral parlor last night telling us what to do," he said. "These pamphlets were passed out by Communists. Pay no heed. We don't need Communists."

8827

Jury Hearing Testimony in Sumner Murder Trial



—WIREPHOTO by The Associated Press

THE FATE OF ROY BRYANT AND J. W. MILAM will be decided by this jury. Seated in the jury box at Sumner, Miss., are (from left, front) Gus Ramsey, James Toole, L. L. Price, J. A. Shaw Jr., Ray Tribble, Ed Devaney, (rear) Travis Thomas, George Holland, Jim Pennington, Davis Newton, Howard Armstrong and Bishop Matthews.

STATEMENTS LET INTO TESTIMONY

Times-Picayune
Pair Admitted Taking Boy, Two Lawmen Say
Thurs. 9-22-55

By W. F. MINOR

(Times-Picayune Staff Correspondent)

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 21—Statements by Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam that they had seized Emmett Till but later released him were admitted in evidence in the Till murder trial here Wednesday.

New Orleans

In gaining admission of the statements — which were orally made to Leflore county officers—the state cleared one of its major hurdles in prosecution of the two men.

Judge Curtis Swango ordered the statements put into evidence over the vigorous objection of defense attorneys.

Bryant and Milam, half-brothers, are on trial for murdering Till, a 14-yera-old Chicago school boy, because he had whistled at Bryant's pretty wife while she was tending their country store at Money, Miss.

Dramatic Moment

A body identified as Till's was pulled from the muddy waters of Tallahatchie river three days after he had been reported pulled from the house of Mose Wright, his great uncle, whom he was visiting.

Wright, a slight little 64-year-old Negro, produced the biggest dramatic moments of the three-day-old trial Wednesday as he pointed a skinny black finger at Milam and said he was the man who strode into his house with a pistol and flashlight and ordered young Till to dress and go with him.

After disappearance of the boy, Wright, whom attorneys called "Uncle Mose," said he did not see him again until his swollen, battered body was taken from the river.

Courtroom testimony in the trial Wednesday was almost overshadowed by developments which reportedly were taking place in a renewed investigation into "new evidence" uncovered by the state.

State Calls Six

Six new witnesses were subpenaed Wednesday by the state as it launched a drive to produce proof of what had happened after Till was allegedly kidnaped until his body was found in Tallahatchie river.

Meanwhile special prosecutor Robert B. Smith III said that there are two Negroes who have been missing since Till disappeared Aug. 28.

Times-Picayune

District Attorney Gerald Chatham said the two, Leroy Collins and Harry Lee Loggins were "long gone," but that they would contribute heavily to the case if they could be found.

P-22.

Both of the missing Negroes were reported to have been former employes of Milam or Bryant. Some of the new witnesses summoned by the state are expected to place them as bing in truck with the Till boy the morning of the alleged slaying.

Sheriff Takes Stand

The statements by Bryant and Milam admitting that they had taken the Till boy from the cotton field house of Wright were related on the witness stand here Wednesday by Sheriff George Smith, and Deputy Sheriff Joe Ed Cothren of nearby Leflore county.

Smith said that Bryant had told that he had "gone to Mose Wright's house and got the boy, took him to his store and when he saw he was not the right one, he turned him loose."

The Leflore county sheriff said Bryant made the statement to him when he went to his (Bryant's) country store on the afternoon of Aug. 28.

Smith said, he placed Bryant under arrest immediately afterwards.

Deputy sheriff Cothren said that Milam, who was picked up the next day, made the same statement to him as he was being placed in the Greenwood jail.

Attorneys Object

Both said that the two accused men said they had let Till go in front of the store, some three miles from the house where he was staying.

Defense attorneys J. J. Breland and Sidney Carlton objected to allowing the conversations with Bryant and Milam to go into the record because they had been improperly taken and because the state had not yet established that a corpus delicti existed in the case.

"Uncle Mose" Wright, who was called as the state's first witness in a series of seven witnesses called to the stand, was under questioning for more than an hour by both the state and defense.

He unflinchingly testified that he had been roused at 2 a. m. on the morning of Aug. 28 by someone at his door calling, "preacher, preacher."

"Who is it?" Wright said he had replied.

"This is Mr. Bryant, I want to talk to you and your boy," the old Negro said he heard a man say.

Asked His Age

When he went to the front of the house, Wright said he saw Milam standing at the door holding a flashlight in his left hand and a pistol in his right hand and another man at the screen porch door.

Wright said that Milam had asked him how old he was.

"I said 64. He said 'If you know any of us, you'll never live to get 65,'" the sharecrapper farmer related.

He said that his wife offered to pay the men if they would go away and leave the boy alone. They went off with the youth without answering, Wright said.

A series of witnesses testified on the finding of a body in Tallahatchie river on Aug. 31 which is believed to be Till's.

Wright testified that he was taken to the river by Deputy Sheriff Cothren and saw the boy lying face down in the boat.

When it was turned over, Wright said he identified the body as Emmett's.

Robert Hodges, a 17-year-old fisherman, testified that he had discovered the knees and feet of a Negro body floating above the water of the river early on the morning of Aug. 31.

Later after notifying his father, and with several other men they pulled the body from snags in the river.

Attached by barbed wire around the neck of the body was a heavy metal fan, Hodges said.

A 70-pound fan used in cotton gins was brought out as evidence by the prosecution and placed before Hodges. He identified it as the same he had seen attached to the body.

Young Hodges said he saw a silver ring on the hand of the body when it was brought into the bank.

Chester A. Miller, a Greenwood Negro undertaker, said that he was called to the river bank to pick up the body.

When he saw it, he said that there was a small hole over the right ear and injuries about the face.

Miller said that a large silver ring was taken from the right hand of the body by his helper.

District Attorney Chatham showed Miller a silver ring in which he read the inscription "May 25, 1953, L.T." and asked him to identify it.

Miller said it was the same ring which he had seen on the body.

'Skull Fell Off'

The Negro undertaker said that while the body was being examined at the river, a piece of the skull which had been crushed fell off.

Leflore county Deputy Sheriff Cothren testified that he had seen the ring on the right hand of the body before it was removed.

When asked to describe the condition of the body, Cothren told the jury that "it was tore up pretty bad."

He said he observed a small hole over the right ear and that the left side of the head was "tore up."

Judge Swango ordered the testimony in the case to be resumed Thursday at 9 a. m., when the state is expected to proceed with the identification of the ring found on the body as the ring which young Till had worn.

The ring reportedly had belonged to Till's father who was killed in the European theater in World War II.

DA to Quiz Till Trial Witnesses

Miami Herald
Wed. 9-21-55
P. 1

SUMNER, Miss. —(AP)— A trial of two White men accused of slaying a Chicago Negro boy was recessed Tuesday until Wednesday.

Miami, Fla.

The judge recessed the trial after the district attorney asked more time to question prospective new witnesses.

The judge said the request was reasonable and added, as further reason for adjournment, his courtroom had become a fire trap through overcrowding.

"If fire develops any place in this courthouse, great tragedy will take place," said Circuit Judge Curtis Swango, Jr., as he recessed the trial moments after the afternoon session opened. It resumes Wednesday with court attaches under orders to limit spectators.

More than 400 Mississippi delta residents had crowded into the humid room. They stood in aisles or sat in the 280 seats in quiet anticipation of the opening of state testimony against Roy Bryant, 34, and his half-brother, J. W. Milam, 36.

The two White men are accused of the kidnap-killing of 14-year-old Emmett Louis (Bobo) Till, a South Side Chicago boy, who allegedly wolf-whistled at Bryant's wife.

Earlier, a defense spokesman said an attempt would be made to show that Till assaulted Mrs. Bryant Aug. 24. He explained "assault" was used in the legal sense which implies any untoward incident such as indecent advances but did not imply actual physical attack or rape.

Jurors Decide Upon Acquittal On 3rd Ballot

Montgomery Ala.

Packed Courtroom Orderly On Hearing Heated Trial Edict

Sat. 9-24-55

By ARTHUR EVERETT

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 23 (AP)—A Mississippi Delta jury today acquitted two white half-brothers in the slaying of a vacationing Chicago Negro boy in one hour seven minutes.

P. 1

The verdict came after three

jury ballots.

It climaxed one of the most explosively tense American trials in years. The case stirred racial anger from Northern Negro centers down into the heart of the Deep South.

A courtroom packed with Mississippi Delta residents took the verdict in orderly fashion, but with a loud exclamation.

Face Another Charge

The defendants, Roy Bryant, 24-year-old Money, Miss., general store keeper, and his half-brother John W Milam, 36, were accused of the Aug. 28 kidnap-slaying of 14-year-old Emmett (Bobo) Till, a South Side Chicago boy.

A kidnap charge in an adjoining county still hangs over them.

The state called the murder an "ungodly act."

However, the defense cast doubt o body taken from the Tallahatchie River three days after the abduction really was Till's.

It could have been a racial "rabblerouser's plant," the defense argued The foreman of the jury said the issue of the body's identification was the chief motive behind the verdict.

Young Till was kidnaped from [illegible] cottonfield shack Aug. 28. Four days earlier, a Negro allegedly had indecently tried to date Bryant's wife, Carolyn, 21, and had wolf-whistled at her.

Authorities in pretrial statements offered the wolf-whistle incident at the Bryant store in the tiny hamlet in Money as motive for the murder.

A gasp of released tension broke courtroom silence at the acquittal verdict. Then a wave of excited exclamation drove through the more than 300 persons in the room, most of them white.

There was no disorder, nor had there been any since the trial began Monday.

Juror No. 4, J. A. Shaw, signalled the climax of the celebrated Mississippi Delta trial at 3:43 p.m. CST from inside the tiny jury room with its peeling paint. It was at the left front of the 45-year-old Tallahatchie County courthouse in Sumner.

After the jury came in, Shaw offered a simple, "Not guilty."

Judge Sends Jury Back

Circuit Judge Curtis Swango refused to accept this wording. He sent the jury back. A few minutes later, they returned with a verdict written down in properly legal fashion. It ran:

"We the jury, find the defendants not guilty."

Milam and Bryant seemed impassive. Mrs. Bryant broke into a subdued smile and she and her husband clasped hands. Later, both couples embraced.

Shaw, one of nine cotton planters on the jury, was designated acting foreman by Judge Swango. Mississippi jurors do not pick their own chairman.

Women do not serve on a jury here. Negroes are eligible if they are registered voters but there are none in Tallahatchie County.

Jury Not Convinced

Shaw said the jury's decision was based on the state's failure to prove beyond reasonable doubt that it was young Till's body that was taken nude and mutilated from the Tallahatchie River last Aug. 31.

The defense heavily stressed the issue of identification. In summing up today, defense lawyer John Whitten offered a theory that rabblerousers put a Negro body—dead some days—in the river, and falsely ballyhooed it as Till's. The defense said the body's condition indicated it had been dead some time beyond the three days Till had been missing.

Special prosecutor Robert Smith III said the crime, if unpunished, would endanger the South's "way of life."

Insists On Identity

He conceded "we have outsiders coming in and disrupting our way of life" but Smith insisted the body had been identified by the boy's mother and further identified by the ring it bore—a ring young Till inherited from his dead father.

The boy's mother Mrs. Mamie Bradley was not in court for the verdict. The young sons of Bryant and Milam also were absent for the climax. The Bryant boys, 2 and 3 and the Milam boys, 2 and 4, perched on their father's knees and frolicked in the courtroom the first two days of the trial.

Judge Swango, at the request of the state, dismissed Tallahatchie County kidnaping indictments against Bryant and Milam. He said Tallahatchie County had jurisdiction in Till's murder but not in his abduction. The body was found in Tallahatchie County. Money, scene of the kidnaping, is in adjoining Leflore County.

Formally Charged

The pair were turned over to Leflore County Sheriff George Smith. They have been formally charged there with kidnaping but the case has not gone to the grand jury. Bryant and Milam are expected to gain freedom on bond while Leflore County decides whether to try them on kidnaping a less serious charge here than murder.

Shortly after Till's abduction, Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People, called the slaying a "new style of lynching."

Gov. Hugh White replied it was murder, not lynching.

From there the argument snowballed into an avalanche of letters to principals in the case and officials, most of them reflecting extreme racial antagonism.

The state never specifically asked for a verdict which would have sent Bryant and Milam to Mississppi's gas chamber. Instead, the state merely cited the penal verdicts possible—guilty with death or guilty with life imprisonment.

No Personal Defense

Neither man took the witness stand in his own defense. There was no compulsion for them to do so under the law.

As photographers and cameramen surrounded the defendants and their attractive wives after the verdict, Milam gave 27-year-old Juanita Milam a long, forceful kiss. Bryant hesitated until photographers induced him to kiss his wife too.

Neither man offered any comment at the moment.

Mrs. Milam said she was happy, and Mrs. Bryant with a small, radiant smile declared:

"I'm very happy. I feel a lot better than I did yesterday on the witness stand."

The case went to the jury at 2:33 p.m. CST.

The trial lasted five days.

Just before the case went to the jury, defense attorney John Whitten said: "There are people in the United States who want to destroy the custom and way of life of Southern white people and Southern colored people.

"There are people out to put us at odds who are willing to go as far as possible, to commit any crime to widen the gap between us.

"If these people had the opportunity to create a commotion, to stir up a trial such as this and focus national attention on Mississippi and focus national attention on the strained relations here, they would do it."

Whitten then offered the theoretical possibility the body of another Negro could have been thrown into the river and passed off as Till.

"I don't know that happened," he said, "I do know that it is well within the realm of possibility."

Ending state arguments, Robert Smith III said: "I tell you, gentlemen, that Emmett Till was entitled to his constitutional rights, he was entitled to his liberty and once we go taking away his rights then we are on the defensive and we can't complain what people do to us.

"Those people (outside agitators) want J. W. Milam and Roy Bryant turned loose. If they're convicted those people are silenced. They can't say the State of Mississippi didn't do its duty."

Summing up, the state called the murder of 14-year-old Emmett (Bobo) Till "a cowardly act."

Dist. Atty. Gerald Chatham said the worst the boy deserved, if he insulted white womanhood with wolf-whistles and obscenities, was "a little beating" with a razor strap.

Defense attorneys replied the state's case doesn't make sense, the wolf-whistling incident does not figure in it and demanded, "What's the motive?"

Freedom Asked

"Turn these men loose," defense lawyers pleaded in behalf of Roy Bryant, 24-year-old Money, Miss., country storekeeper, and his half-brother, J. W. Milam, 36.

The state contends they kidnaped and killed young Till in connection with an incident at the Bryant store in Money. Bryant's attractive 21 year-old wife Carolyn had told the court that a "Negro man" whistled at her there and tried to date her.

The two men have pleaded innocent.

The state did not ask the death penalty which is mandatory with an unqualified verdict of guilty as charged. Other verdicts allow the jury to fix the penalty at life or disagree and let the judge, Curtiss Swango Jr., impose the minimum of life.

Mississipp Daily Hits N.A.A.C.P.

But Charges of Jackson Paper Declared False

CHICAGO, Ill. (ANP) — The Jackson (Miss.) Daily News this week published an article by Reporter Bill Spell, who claimed that two Negro witnesses in the Till trial are "held captive in Chicago."

Spell's "inside story" was published under a seven-column head in Wednesday's edition of the News, which plugged the story with a sub-head declaring that a "newspaperman dared to penetrate Chicago's South Side."

The Chicago American on Friday revealed that Spell posed as a police officer and was given official clearance to interview Willie Reed, who is under medical treatment in a Chicago hospital. The American gave the following account of Spell's visit:

"Spell, flown here in a National Guard plane, was accompanied by a man who identified himself to police as W. J. Chrisler, an aid to County Judge Arthur Jurdan will preside at the trial.

Mrs. Thomas said that when her son is released from the hospital he will move in with her. She said she did not know how he left Mississippi or where the expense money came from.

"With Willie well, and the few dollars I have saved, we'll manage to get along," Mrs. Thomas said.

Moses Wright, uncle of Till, who pointed out Milam and Bryant at the murder trial, has stated definitely that he will go back to Mississippi and testify against the two white men at the kidnap trial.

Attorney William Henry Huff has said he will request that Reed, Wright, and Mrs. Amanda Bradly return to Mississippi to testify at the trial. He said that Mrs. Mamie Bradley, mother of the slain boy, will not have to go back.

Huff said he will file separate $100,000 damage suits against each of the defendants, He had stated that he would take this course of action if the men were not given the death penalty on the murder charge.

Meanwhile, reaction to the trial continued to be expressed. The general board of the National Council of Churches of Christ, representing more than 35,000,000 members, passed a resolution that said responsibility for "violation of human personality on racial grounds rests upon the entire nation."

In Drew, Miss., Alonzo Bradley, husband of Amanda Bradley, has been found safe on a plantation. Earlier reports had said Bradley had been killed or chased out of the state by a mob of white men.

According to reports, Bradley said no one had molested him and he felt that his wife would be safe if she returns to Mississippi. He said he had been able to contact his wife only once since she left.

In New York, Mrs. Ruby Hurley, Southeast Regional Secretary of the NAACP said the Till trial "convinced most Mississippi Negroes that if the law won't protect them, it is up to them to protect themselves."

She cited the case of one Negro businessman on whose lawn a cross was burned recently. She quoted him:

"I have not bothered anybody and I don't expect to sit quietly by and let anyone kill me for nothing. I have an idea who burned the cross near my home and I have let it be known that if anyone comes for me, they had better be prepared to go too."

8828

Lynch-Murder Suspects To Face Trial For Murder September 19

Accused Of Kidnap-Death Of 14-Year-Old Chicago Boy

BY E. J. MAYS Daily World

SUMNER, Miss. — (INS) — Two white men accused of murdering a 14-year-old Chicago Negro boy in the Mississippi Delta will go on trial for their lives on Monday, September 19. P1

Circuit Court Judge Curtis Swango set the trial date Friday in Sumner. He ordered a prospective jury list of 125 men drawn up from which to select the 12 men who will sit in judgment on the sensational case. Sat. 9-10-55

The murder victim is Emmett Louis Till, who was abducted from the home of an uncle he was visiting in Money, beaten with an axe and shot through the head.

Roy Bryant, 24, of Money, and his half-brother, J. W. Milam, 36, of Glendora, were indicted on charges of murder and kidnapping. Till was killed after he allegedly whistled at Bryant's attractive 21-year-old wife and "talked ugly" to her. Atlanta Ga.

The youth's body was found in the Tallahatchie River last week weighted down with a 150-pound cotton gin fan secured with barbed wire.

District Attorney Gerald Chatham disclosed Friday that Till's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley of Chicago, has agreed to attend the trial. Earlier this week, Mrs. Bradley termed the Delta "a den of snakes."

Till's death set off a series of protests and brought charges from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People that Mississippi "has decided to maintain white supremacy by murdering children."

The governors of Mississippi and Illinois both asked for a full investigation of the death.

Till's body was returned to Chicago for burial. Thousands of persons filed by his casket to view the body. World

NAACP statements in the case brought criticism from several Louisiana and Mississippi newspapers. The papers strongly condemned the murder, but charged the NAACP with trying to stir up racial strife. P 24

Bryan and Milam are being held in the Charleston jail until the trial. They admitted taking Till from his uncle's home, but said he was released when Bryant's wife failed to identify him as the one who had whistled at her.

ed any trouble. -A U

The Sheriff said that two men, and a white woman had taken the boy presumably his saying two was to reduce the number of men in order to make it less than three, usually counted as enough for lynching.

Although the Sheriff knew who the men were, after three days the only thing he said, was that, "he was kinda scared there had been foul play".

The husband of the woman, and owner of the store, said they took the boy to the store and asked his wife whether he was the one, and that she said no. He claimed that they then turned Emmett aloose and he left. Dat. 9-24-55

Since the young Till boy with residence in Chicago, has been

Whites Kidnap, Murder Boy, 15

GREENWOOD, Miss — Negroes in Money, Mississippi, insist that little Emmett Louis Till, 15, was lynched by the Citizens Committee there. Emmett's body with head crushed was found in the river Wednesday, after he had been taken away from his uncle's home Sunday, by three white men and a woman in a car. Little Emmett, who was from Chicago, was visiting an uncle there.

Sunday morning three white men and a woman, came into the uncle's house and took little Emmett off in their car, inquiring the woman, "if he was the one". He was never seen alive again, and his body was found in the river Wednesday. P 24

The Sheriff said Emmett Louis Till was kidnapped. Negroes said, from the beginning that the Citizens Council had taken Emmett for a ride and lynched him. Discovery of the body shot in the head and weighted proved them right. Houston

"UGLY REMARKS"

The Sheriff said Emmett Louis Till, made "ugly remarks" to the wife of a groceryman, when he and other boys went into the store Saturday. The Negroes said that the white woman didn't like Emmett Louis' pertness, and called him "smart". They said the ugly words consisted merely of his saying "Good Bye" They claim the little exchange happened well up in the day Saturday, and nobody paid any attention to it. Or expect-

lynched, it is hoped that the F. B. I. will get in on the case.

Mississippi is the state which began the Citizens Council. It is poetic justice that the first boy in a lynching resulting from this mob spirit comes in Mississippi, the cradle of Citizens Councils. Negroes through the South expect other violences to follow the Citizens Council, despite protestations of peaceful procedures.

Negroes look with concern upon the application of the Dallas Civil Council for a charter from the State of Texas to operate, openly and admitedly against the supreme court's decision.

KIDNAP-LYNCHING

The Sheriff reports the store owner, and husband as saying: They took the boy from his uncle's home to the store. Since they took him against his will, and against the will of the uncle, that probably will come to kidnapping.

Negroes say that the uncle asked the men where they were taking little Till, and that the husband said, "no where, if he isn't the right one". This version says that he and his companions took little Till to the car and asked the woman, "is this the one", and that she answered, "yes". They put him in the car and drove off, according to this version.

The next anybody saw of Emmett Louis Till, was his body weighted in the river. Negroes are saying that sending their children into Mississippi, is more dangerous than having our war prisoners captured by Chinese Communist.

Urges President Eisenhower to condemn 'dastardly act'

CHICAGO (NNPA)—President Eisenhower was called upon Friday to assure an investigation of the lynching of 14-year-old Emmitt Louis Till in Mississippi.

William Henry Huff, NAACP counsel in Chicago, wrote the President: "The citizens of my race and countless of thousands of others in Chicago are very much concerned because of the murder of this young lad.

"This dastardly act on the part of these criminal-minded persons is so outrageous that it opens the door for condemnation of the United States. This occasion warrants that you speak out in no uncertain terms."

The South Is Sick

That is meaning of Till murder

EDITOR'S NOTE — The following is a reprint from I. F. STONE'S WEEKLY, a Washington newsletter.)

Next to the President's collapse the worst news of the week was from Mississippi. The jury at Sumner brought in two verdicts, not one. The immediate and visible decision was that J. W. Milam and Roy Bryant were not guilty of killing a 14-year-old colored boy.

The other, unspoken, unintended, unconscious but indelible, was a verdict of guilty against all the rest of us and our country.

There are scenes at the murder trial which imprint themselves on the mind. One of the colored reporters, as they walked into court one day after lunch, being hailed by the Sheriff with "Hello, Nigger."

MRS. BRADLEY, the mother of the victim, testifying that she told her son before he left for the South, "to be very careful how he spoke and to say 'yes, sir' and 'no, ma'am' and not to hesitate to humble yourself if you had to get down on your knees."

Moses Wright—we salute his courage—testifying that when J. W. Milam came to get his 14-year-old nephew Emmett Till, he asked, "You from Chicago?" and when the boy answered "yes" Milam said, "Don't you say yes to me or I'll knowk hell out of you."

Mrs. Bryant's sexy whopper which Judge Swango to his credit kept from the jury) that this 14-year-old boy with a speech defect had grabbed her round the waist, solicited her with an boasted, "I've been with white women before."

J. A. SHAW JR., the foreman of the jury, asked by the press what the jury thought of Mrs. "if she tried a little harder, she might have got out a tear."

with the bullet hole in the right temple and the gaping hole in the back of the head, as if broken in by a rock, testified to a maniacal murder.

Those who killed him were sick men, sick with race hatred. The murder and the trial could only have happened in a sick countryside. Where else would a mother be treated wi thsuhe-lce mother be treated with such elementary lack of respect or compassion?

Where else would the defense dare put forward the idea that the murder was somehow somehow make it appear that those at fault were not the men who killed the boy but those who tried to bring the killers to justice? There is a sickness in the South. Unless cured, there it crimes as evil and immense as the crematoria of Hitlerism.

* * *

IF MILAM and Bryant did not kill Till, then who did? Nobody in the South asks the question, at least publicly. Who was the third man with them? Where are the two missing witnesses?

Nobody cares.

Mississippi went through the motions, and the motions were enough to muffle the weak conscience of the northern white press. The judge was honorable; hard; who can quarrel with a jury verdict?

But the jury was all white, in an area two-thirds colored. And of what use was an upright judge and a special prosecutor when the case was rushed to trial without adequate preparation or investigation?

THIS WAS only the final scene of a lynching hastily covered with a thin veil of respectability by a shrewd governor.

The same governor, Hugh White, as chairman of the Legal Education Advisory Committee, program to fight desegregation which calls for abolition of compulsory public schooling and legislation to "prohibit interference with state law under cover of federal authority."

Hugh White is himself the leader of Mississippi's racists and nullificationists.

* * *

BEFORE THE war and the witch hunt, where there were still organizations like the Southern Conference for Human Welfare, there would have been public meetings of protest under mixed auspices. It shames our country and it shames white Americtns that the only meetings in Harlem, Baltimore, Chicago and Detroit, have been colored meetings.

Those whites in the South and in the North who would normal ly have been moved to act, have been hounded out of public life and into inactivity. To the outside world it must look as if the conscience of white America has been silenced, and the appearance is not too deceiving.

Basically all of us whites, North and South, acquiesce in white supremacy, and benefit from the pool of cheap labor created by it.

* * *

WILL THE colored man take this latest outrage? Unlesscolored people rouse themselves t make their indignation felt in some dramatic way, nothing will be done inMississippi or in Congress. A. Phillip Randolph last Sunday suggested a march on Washington like that which dramatized the FEPC fight before Pearl Harbor.

Were thousands of colored citizens to converge on the Department of Justice and demand action against the murderers of Till, and of the other colored Americans whose recent murderers have gone unpunished in the South, such a demonstration would have an impact.

The American needs a Gandhi colored American to lead us. If he does not provide leadership against the sickness in the South, the time will come when we will all pay a terrible price for allowing a psychopathic racist brutality to flourish unchecked.

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Midnight Ride

Courier Boy, 14, Victim of Race Hate

Sat. 9-10-55 P.1 Pittsburgh Courier

(By Staff Correspondent)

GREENWOOD, Miss. — Beset from every quarter by a mounting wave of protests, red-faced Mississippi officials, led by Gov. Hugh White, sought to lift the blanket of shame which has been draped over this deep south state, by the "atrocity slaying" of young 14-year-old Emmett Till.

Till's lynching, allegedly committed because he either whistled at or made a "smart remark" to a 27-year-old white woman, stung Governor White into sending a telegram to the NAACP in which he stated that the killing was not a lynching, but a "straight out murder."

Earlier in the week when the first protests had begun to filter into the state, Governor White replied to an NAACP telegram with "they are just trying to get their names in the paper."

• • •

LATER, WHITE asserted, "Mississippi deplores such conduct on the part of its citizens and we certainly do not condone it." Courier

Suspects in the slaying are Roy Bryant and his half-brother, J. W. Milan, who were arrested and charged with kidnapping one day after the boy was taken from the home of his uncle, Moses Wright. P.K.

The tragic story had its beginning in the small brick country store of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Bryant in Money, a quiet village with seventy-five inhabitants, when some teen-aged Negro boys entered to buy some bubble gum.

Young Till, who was visiting with his Mississippi cousins, was with the group. He had been "warned" by his cousin, Maurice Wright, 16, not to "act up."

However, while on his way out of the store Emmett is said to have turned toward Mrs. Bryant and said "goodbye."

• • •

ACCORDING TO Maurice, Mrs. Bryant came to the door and Emmett whistled. The youngsters then drove off.

"Emmett sometimes didn't make sense. He had been here a week and helped us pick cotton, but he didn't like it. He only made about $4," Maurice said. He added that Emmett had polio when he was a baby and stuttered.

At 2 A. M. that night after the boys had been bedded down in the home of their uncle, a knock came at the door. Moses Wright asked "Who's there?"

"We want to talk to you about your church," came the reply.

• • •

WHEN THE elder Wright opened the door, Bryant and Milan, one with a flashlight and the other with a pistol, are said to have pushed their way into the house.

"Where's the boy from Chicago," they demanded. They then pushed Wright into the next room where Emmett, Maurice, and another boy were bedded down. They grabbed Till and told him to get dressed.

"I thought they would just give him a beating and bring him back," recalled the eldest Wright.

When Mrs. Wright spoke up from the other room, one of the white man said, "Shut up." They then told Emmett that he wouldn't be "hurt" if he was "not the right one," and then walked out of the house with the boy.

• • •

THE WRIGHTS heard a woman's voice outside in the dark exclaim, "That's the one." The car then drove away with Emmett, carrying him to his death.

Before leaving, the men had told Wright, "Forget our faces or you won't live to be 65 years old." Moses is 64 years old.

Wright pulled on his shirt, ran over to a neighbor's house, the plantation "rider," who called the sheriff's office.

• • •

ROY BRYANT was apprehended after sunrise. He admitted that he had spirited the boy away but claimed, "We turned him loose when we found he was not the right one." When the police arrested Milan later, he gave the same story. Another warrant was made out for the Bryant woman, but she was not jailed.

It took three days to find Emmett's body. A 17-year-old boy, fishing in the Tallahatchie River, discovered the corpse floating feet up, weighted down with barbed wire and a 150-pound fan from a cotton gin blower.

Sheriff George Smith of LeFlore County then announced that the men would not only be charged with kidnapping, but also with murder. Sheriff H. C. Strider of Tallahatchie County said that he would seek "speedy prosecution" of the men.

However, the demonstrations of close to 50,000 residents of Chicago during final rites for the slain boy, met with reaction on the part of LeFlore County Atty. John Fraiser Jr., who said that "This is not helping the prosecution's case at all. He commented that local people resent "outside agitation" in such a case.

The District Attorney of Tallahatchie County, Gerald Chatham, said that he would ask a grand jury to indict the two men this week for murder.

• • •

THE NAACP issued a statement to the effect that, "Mississippi has decided to maintain white supremacy by murdering children."

Roy Wilkins, executive secretary, commented, "The killers of the boy felt free to lynch him because there is in the entire state no restraining influence of decency, not in the state capital, among the daily newspapers, the clergy, not any segment of the so-called better citizens."

The slaying of young Till was the third lynching in Mississippi within a month. The Rev. George W. Lee and Lamar Smith, leaders of a "right-to-vote" campaign were assassinated by white supremacists.

The entire state has been under tension with hundreds of threats being sent to militant Negroes and crosses being burned in profusion.

Emmett was the son of an Army veteran, who died while in the service.

Till's mother said that she had warned him to be careful in Mississippi. "I told him 'even if you have to get on your knees and bow when they (white persons) pass, do it willingly."

The two men held for the murder are: Roy Bryant, 27, and ex-partrooper; and, his half-brother, J. W. Milam, 36, an army lieutenant during World War II. Young Till's father died while in the service.



Courier Sat. 9-10-55 P.1 Pittsburgh Courier

In Tears—Mrs. Elizabeth Wright, Emmett Till's step-grandmother from Money, Miss., where the victim was slain while on a visit, is escorted from Roberts Temple, Church of God in Christ, Chicago, following funeral rites held on Saturday.

Willie Reed Won't Go Back To Miss.

CHICAGO (ANP) — Willie Reed, 17 - year - old witness for the state in the Till murder trial, said here that he will not go back to Mississippi to testify in the kidnapping trial of Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam.

Bryant and Milan are charged with taking Emmett Till from the home of his uncle. The accused were acquitted earlier on charges of murdering the 14-year - old Chicago youth.

Mrs. Edith Thomas, 37, mother of Reed, told reporters here:

"Under no circumstances will I permit my child to risk his life a second time. Willie told the Tallachatchie County jury all he knew at the murder trial. His testimony is there if they want it."

REED, WHO is recovering from a nervous disorder at Michael Reese hospital here, was quoted as saying that he is "afraid to go back there." His mother added:

"Do you think I want my boy killed? If I let him talk before the LeFlore County jury next month, God only knows what might happen to him."

The governor of Mississippi, Hugh White, is quoted by a Chicago paper as saying that if Reed doesn't want to testify, that's his business.

* * *

"IT'S ALL a lot of propaganda, anyhow. There is no danger here that should frightened any witness," White is quoted as saying. He added that he has no power to compel the youth to testify.

White also announced that the prosecutor for the kidnap trial will be Stanley Sanders of Indianola in Sunflower County. LeFlore County Judge Arthur Jurdan will preside at the trial.

Mrs. Thomas said that when her son is released from the hospital he will move in with her. She said she did not know how he left Mississippi or where the expense money came from.

* * *

MOSES WRIGHT, uncle of Till, who pointed out Milam and Bryant at the murder trial, has stated definitely that he will go back to Mississippi and testify against the two white men at the kidnap trial.

William H. Huff, attorney has said he will request that Reed, Wright, and Mrs. Amanda Bradly return to Mississippi to testify at the trial. He said that Mrs. Bradley, mother of the slain boy, will not have to go back.

Huff said he will file separate $100,000 damage suits against each of the defendants. He had stated that he would take this course of action if the men were not given the death penalty on the murder charge.

* * *

MEANWHILE, reaction to the trial continued to be expressed. The general board of the National Council of Churches of Christ passed a resolution that said responsibility for "violation of human personality on racial grounds rests upon the entire nation."

In Drew, Miss., Alonzo Bradley, husband of Amanda Bradley, has been found safe on a plantation. Earlier reports had said Bradley had been killed or chased out of the state by a mob of white men.

According to reports, Bradley said no one had molested him and he felt that his wife would be safe if she returns to Mississippi. He said he had been able to contact his wife only once since she left.

In New York, Mrs. Ruby Hurley, southeast regional secretary of the NAACP said the Till trial "convinced most Mississippi colored persons that if the law won't protect them, it is up to them to protect themselves.

in his cotton crop, but that things got "too hot" for him and he though it wiser to "clear out."

"AFTER THE trial of Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam, I went back to my cabin. I cleaned up then I drove to the Church of God in Christ nearby," Mr. Wright said, adding:

"I sat there alone, a little weepy, until dark. I started back home and a white man told me there were some other white men in front of my cabin. "So I slept in my car in the cemetery that night.

"Come daybreak, I told Mr. Frederick, my boss, to sell my cotton and sell my dogs and I said to sell my chickens and whatever else is left, why to sell that, too.

"And I got me a train ticket and I went to Chicago. I had two dollars left."

* * *

MR. WRIGHT had three dogs and 100 chickens, he said.

He is living in Detroit at the home of the father of the murdered Emmett Till's mother, John Cartham.

Mr. Wright denied that any group influenced his action in leaving Mississippi. He refused to denounce the whole white race for his plight.

He says he is sorry to have had to leave the "good white folks" who helped him in his old home.

Moses Wright afraid, but will go back again

DETROIT — Admitting that fear made him flee Mississippi after he had pointed out a white murder suspect in Sumner, Miss., who was later cleared of charges of slaying Emmett Till, a 14-year-old boy who had whistled at a white woman, Moses Wright, 64, also declared that he would return to his home state to testify again against the man in the kidnaping trial.

Interviewed here at his west side residence the determined looking ex-farmer stated that he had hoped to remain on his share-held farm until he brought

He will not return to Mississippi, though except to testify in the kidnaping trial, he said, declaring that he would stay in the North and earn his living by preaching.

Negro Press Is Accused

Attorney in Till Case Says Newspaper Story Is Attempt To Condone Slaying of Youth

CHICAGO.—(ANP)—Louis Till, father of youthful Emmett Till who recently met death in Mississippi because he whistled at a white woman, was not a war hero nor was he a model husband.

The elder Till's war record was exposed Saturday, Oct. 15, in a copyrighted story in the Jackson Daily News, white daily.

William Henry Huff, attorney for the Till side in the case, called the newspaper story an attempt to condone the "lynching" of a child. In a special statement, he declared:

"Article III, Section 3 of the U. S. Constitution sets out that there shall be no corruption of blood.' Whatever the lad's father did does not inure to the lad. This argument about the father coming from high sources is an attempt to condone the lynching of this child.

"What the senators and others in high places should do in order to save the good name of Mississippi is to stop filibustering against anti-lynching legislation and join wholeheartedly with those wishing the passage of such a law."

Louis Till's marital record was revealed by his mother-in-law, Mrs. Alma Spearman, in an interview with an ANP reporter.

In a companion editorial, the Jackson Daily News also accused Negro newspapers, the NAACP, and the northern press of "distortion" in connection with stories about the Till case.

According to the Daily News story, Till was hanged in Italy, July 2, 1945, as a result of a trial on February 17, 1945 in Leghorn, Italy, on charges of raping two Italian women and shooting to death a third one on June 27, 1944, in Civitavecchia, Italy.

An army report, the paper said, reads as follows:

"Louis Till was inducted into the army at age of 25, giving his address as 7558 W. 61st street, Argo, Ill., and listing next of kin as Lee Green, 7553 64th street, Argo. No relationship listed.

"Pvt. Louis Till of 177th Port company, was executed in Italy, July 2, 1945, for murder and rape at age 24."

At that time Till was legally married to Emmett's mother, now Mrs. Mamie Bradley. According to Mrs. Bradley's mother, Mrs. Spearman, here is what she knows of Till's marriage and army experience:

"When he married my daughter he was quite young. He had a quick temper and often got into fights, but never served time in jail. He volunteered to join the Army in 1942, but as a single man. At that time he and my daughter were separated.

"Later, he did acknowledge that he was married and had a son (Emmett was a baby then), making the first check retroactice. They received an allotment until he died."

Here is Mrs. Spearman's story of the death:

"All we know about Louis Till's death is that we first received a telegram which read, 'Louis Till died July 2, 1945. A letter of confirmation will follow.'

8830

Miss. DA Pleads In Vain For Lynching Conviction

Informer
Sat. 10-1-55
Pg 1

SUMNER, Miss — In one of the most passionate pleas ever made by a white man in the South on behalf of a Negro, District Attorney Gerald Chatman Friday begged an all-white jury to forget about race and condemn what is "morally and legally wrong" and convict Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam for the murder of Emmett Till. His plea went unheeded, however, for the defense attorney injected the race issue and the all-white jury found the accused lynchers not guilty.

The powerfully built district attorney, serving his last year as prosecutor, made the plea as he and Special Prosecutor Roy B. Smith ended their arguments and sent the case to the jury. It was one of the most dramatic highlights in the drama studded trial when Chathan began his argument.

Houston Defender

For here was a southern born white man facing an all white jury and asking that jury to render a verdict which could hang two white men for killing a Negro. No white man has ever been given a death penalty in Mississippi fo killing a Negro. It was a challenging and difficult moment in th career of Chathan, but in the interest of fair reporting it must b said that he rose to the challeng with all the ability at his com mand and he is a man of commanding ability.

Informer

"In a loud, booming voice which could be heard outside on the streets below the courtroom, Chat man told the jury and the 17 whites and 23 colored people tha pressure and agitation which the he is "not concerned with the or outside the state of Mississippi trial has produced, either within "But I am concerned" he said, "with what is morally and legally wrong." Then with a direct reference to Mrs Mamie Bradley, mother of the dead Emmett Till, he looked at the courtroom and the jury and said, "The next time it may be you who will be sitting here crying."

P. 16

Concluding his argument, Chathan said: "I say to you, unless you judge this case on its merits, it will endanger the precepts and examples which we hold dear here in the South."

By every courtroom standard, the Mississippi born DA made a great plea for the dead colored youth. At times one got the feeling that he was in a Baptist church and that Chatham was the Baptist preacher.

For his numerous moments of brilliant oratory he brought tears to the eyes not only of those seated at the colored press table but to some of the white listeners as well.

One of the key arguments that the defense had made was that the body found in the river had not been that of Emmett Till. They had presented a doctor, a sheriff and two undertakers whose testimony attempted to show that it could not have been Till's body.

Against this testimony Chatham had relied heavily on the identification of the youth by his own mother. Recalling her testimony to the jury he told of the case of his own son who had a dog named "Shep".

He said one day his own son had come to him after his dog had been missing for a few days and said to him, "Dad, I've found old Shep."

The prosecutor said his young son then took him by the hand and led him to a hollow ravine behind the barn and pointed to the badly decomposed body of his dog.

"The dog's body was rotten and the meat was falling off its bone," the prosecutor said, "but my little boy pointed to it and said, "That's old Shep, Pa. That's old Shep."

Dramatically tying this illustration in with Mrs Bradley's identification of her son, Chatham in a pleading voice to the jury said, "My boy didn't need no undertaker or a sheriff to identify his dog. And we don't need them here to identify Emmett Till. All we need is someone who loved him and cared for him.

"If there was one ear left, one hairline, one part of his nose, any part of Emmett Till's body, then I say to you that Mamie Bradley was God's given witness to identify him."

The aroused DA then turned to damaging testimony offered by a defense witness, a white doctor who had testified that the body could have been there at least 10 days while Till had only been missing for three days.

On the stand the doctor had stated that the body was so badly decomposed he could not tell whether it was colored or white. Addressing himself to this argument, Chatham said, "Everyone who has testified here has stated that this was the body of a colored boy. When the sheriff was first told of the body his informer said, 'There is a little nigger boy in the river." Everybody who saw the body said "a nigger boy is in the river."

But now we have this doctor come up here with all his degrees and titles and tell us that he couldn't tell whether it was a white boy or a colored boy.

"Tell you the people of this state are wasting their money sending a man to school and educating him to be a doctor when he is not able to tell a white man from a Negro.

"I want to say this about the doctor—if he can't tell black from white, I don't want him writing any prescriptions for me."

Chatham did not miss any strong points in his plea for conviction of the two white men. He constantly reminded the jury that he was a son of the South and he pointed out that the jury knew as Southerners that even if the Till boy had done something wrong all the white men had to do was to take a "razor strap, place him over a barrel, and give him a good whipping.

"That's the way I deal with my boy," he said, "You deal with a child as if he is a child—not as if he is a man.

"But did they do this," he asked. "No they did not. Willie Reed (8 colored witnesses) told you how he saw Emmett Till that Sunday morning on the Milan place and he told you how he later saw J. W. Milan with the pistol in his hand that Uncle Mose saw him with too. If Willie Reed had been lying the five lawyers for the defense would have had 50 people up here to say he was not qualified to speak.

"But did they do this? They did not. They couldn't do it because Willie Reed was telling the truth. But the next time anyone saw that little boy his feet were sticking up out of the river and he was dead."

Chatham called the boy's death a cowardly act and the "unnecessary killing of a human being."

After he finished, Mrs Mamie Bradley who was seated next to me at the press table said: "He couldn't have done any better."

Reveals How Informer Lynched Boy Died In Pain

Sat. 10-1-55
P. 16

SUUMMES, Miss. — Willie Reed 18 - year - old farm boy testified Thusday that he saw J. W. Milan enter a barn in Sunflower county, August 28 and seconds later heard human screams coming from the barn.

Houston Defender

Reed was the first of a parade of surprise colored witnesses rounded up by Mississippi law officals acting on information given them by Dr. T R M Howard and reporters here covering this trial. Five other witnesses provided by by Dr Howard are present and ready to testify in the now sensational development which is expecetd to show that J W Milan and Roy Bryant killed Emmett Till in a barn on a plantation 10 miles from Mound Bayou that is managed by J W Milan.

The parade of colored witnesses had started the day before when in what will stand out as one of the most dramatic moments of the trail 64-year-old Rev Moses Wright Emmett Till's uncle took the witness stand.

He told of the two white men coming to his house one with gun in hand and demanding "the boy who made the big talk."

There was stalk drama in the court room when the prosecuting attorney asked Rev Wright if one of the men with gun in hand at his door has been J W Milan.

"Now Uncle Mose" he said do you see J W Milan in this room? If so point him out.

With his thin body racked with emotion but his face a deadly calm Rev Wright rose, pointed a pointed a bony finger at a white man and said.

"Dere he is"

Explore Possibility of New Lynch Trial

Chicago (ANP)—A definite move is underway here to secure additional evidence which might lead to new charges of murder against two white men who were freed in the death of 14-year-old Emmett Till.

The men, who still face kidnaping charges in November, are Roy Bryant and his half-brother, J. W. Milam who admitted they took Till from the home of his uncle, Moses Wright, but claimed they released him unharmed after determining that he was not the person who "insulted" Bryant's wife.

Chief cause for belief that a new trial is possible is the fact that Levi Collins, 22, who was reported missing after the prosecution sought him as a witness, is in Chicago.

Collins, and Henry Lee Loggin, 19, are reported to have been seen with Till and several white men on the morning that Till was kidnapped from the home of his uncle, Moses Wright.

According to reliable reports, Collins and Loggin were hidden away in jail under assumed names during the trial. They were held there without charge until two days after Bryant and Milam were acquitted.

Leaders here have been interviewing Collins and plan to have him viewed by Willie Reed, 18, who testified that he saw the two Negroes and four white men with Till on the presumed day of the murder.

It is believed that Loggin and Collins were eyewitnesses to the murder and that they were hidden by authorities in Mississippi so they could not testify against the two accused white men.

Although Milam and Bryant are free of the murder charges, and it is not expected they will be convicted on the kidnap accusations, the Till case is far from dead. New developments include the following:

1. Reed, now in Chicago where he fled after testifying at the trial, is in Michael Reese hospital under medical care and constant police guard.

2. Mrs. Mamie Bradley, Till's mother, suffering from the strain of events, was admitted to Provident hospital here for medical observation and complete rest.

3. Moses Wright, 64, Till's uncle, who identified Milam and Bryant as the two men who kidnapped the boy, is in Chicago and will go back to Mississippi to testify at the kidnap trial.

4. Reports that Mrs. Bradley will ask pathologists at the University of Chicago to examine the body of her son in an effort to make positive identification, were neither denied nor confirmed.

5. Plans are being made to bring Loggin, a railroad employee, to Chicago so Reed can see if he was one of the Negroes seen with Till before the lad's death. Loggin, who was in St. Louis for a few days, is reported back in Mississippi.

Thus, ended days of speculation concerning the whereabouts of the two men who are believed to be able to tell exactly how Till died and who killed him. Reports that they had been killed led to a request for FBI investigation.

There have also been reports of new outbreaks of violence in the Mississippi Delta area. Rep. Diggs, (D-Mich.) who attended the trial, said he had received reports that the husband of Mary Bradley, a witness, had been beaten up in Sumner, Miss.

Mrs. Bradley, no relation to the slain youth's mother, fled to Chicago after the trial, then left and went to Detroit.

According to Diggs, Wright left Mississippi after three carloads of white men came to his home looking for him. Diggs said Wright hid out in a cemetery until he was able to escape.

And down in Tallahatchie County, the local law enforcement officer, Sheriff H. C. Strider, seemed determnied to do his best to prevent justice being done. It was Strider who first raised doubt that the body found was Till.

At last report, he was circulating rumors that Till was still alive and was hiding in Detroit, but added that "as far as knowing anything definite," I don't know it.

Mrs. Mamie Bradley declared that she would be willing to have her son's body exhumed "from the vault if that would dispel these wild rumors. If he were alive, I would know it."



MT. JOY BAPTIST church, 11389 S. May st., holds rally for Moses Wright (2nd from right) uncle of lynched Emmett Till, and Mrs. Amanda Bradley (right) one of the surprise witnesses for the prosecution in the case. Mrs. Bradley (not related to Mrs. Mamie Bradley) was one of the witnesses discovered by Defender Publications. Left to Wright, wife of Moses Wright; Mrs. Alma Spearman, young Till's grandmother; and Rev. Ivory Scott, pastor of the church. Wright, from whose home Till was taken, was also a witness for the prosecution. Mr. and Mrs. Wright and Mrs. Amanda Bradley will make their homes in Chicago. Defender photo.

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In Mississippi trial—

Sharecropper identifies pair as abductors of Emmett Till

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 21—(AP)—Mose Wright identified J. W. Milam today as one man who abducted the sharecropper's nephew in the early morning hours Aug. 28.

Then the 64-year-old farmer pointed out 24-year-old Roy Bryant, Milam's half-brother, as the second man who roused the Wright family from bed at 2 a.m. and took Emmett Louis Till away.

Bryant and Milam, 36, are accused of murdering the Chicago Negro boy because he allegedly whistled at Mrs. Bryant. Dist. Atty. Gerald Chatham called Wright as the state's first witness.

Testimony began shortly after Chatham said he had six new witnesses who would place the defendants "with the Negro boy several hours after he was taken from Mose's (Wright's) shack." He also said the witness would place the accused men in the area where Till's body was pulled from the Tallahatchie River.

Chatham said the witnesses have "absolutely newly discovered evidence" but did not elaborate further.

CHATHAM ASKED the farmer to descrcibe the events of Aug. 28.

"About 2 o'clock. . . . Someone was at the door. They said, 'Preacher, Preacher.'

"'This is Mr. Bryant,'" Wright said the voice told him. "I got up and opened the door."

"Mr. Milam was standing at the door with a pistol in his right hand and a flashlight in the other," Wright declared.

Wright started to continue, but Chatham interrupted: "Uncle Mose, do you see Mr. Milam in the courtroom?"

The little Negro rose from the chair and pointed at the defendant. "There he is," he said.

Wright then pointed out Bryant as the man who stood in the darkness of the front porch with Milam.

AT FIRST, the witness said he couldn't recognize Bryant as the man he saw standing before his screen door with Milam just before the boy was abducted. But, after vigorous defense objections, Wright finally said Bryant sitting in the courtroom was the same man who identified himself on the front porch as Bryant.

He said Milam carried a pistol and added:

"He asked me if I had two boys out of Chicago."

The visiting boys were Till, 14; his nephew, and 16-year-old Wheeler Parker, Wright's grandson. They had been vacationing there a week.

Wright said one man told him: "I wants that boy who done that talk at Money."

He said Milam told him after seizing Till: "If that's not the right boy, we are going to bring him back and put him in the bed."

AS THE MEN LEFT the house, said Wright, one of them warned him not to cause any trouble or "you'll never live to be 65." Wright said his wife left her bed at the height of the commotion and one of the men ordered her "to get back in that bed and I want to hear those springs."

"My wife said," Wright testified, 'Listen,' she said, 'We'll pay you what ever you want to charge, we'll pay you if you release him'." Wright said the men didn't answer.

The witness said he watched from a screened porch as the men took the boy to a car parked on a gravel road about 50 feet from the porch. Its headlights were off. He said he heard one man ask—apparently of someone in the car—"Is this the boy?"

"Somebody said 'Yes'," said Wright.

"Was that a man's voice or a woman's?" he was asked.

"It seemed a little lighter than a man's," Wright replied.

Wright then told of watching the car drive away toward Money, its lights still off.

He said he never saw the Till boy alive again.

HE SAID HE WAS an onlooker when the body was taken from the river.

"Who was it?" asked Chatham, referring to the body.

"Emmett Till," Wright answered.

The witness, speaking firmly, said he watched authorities remove from the body a ring like the one young Till wore.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY Sidney Carlton quickly moved to cut down Wright's identification of Milam and Bryant in cross-examination.

Wright admitted the only light in the darkened house came from a flashlight held by the man he identified as Milam.

Then, after a series of rapid questions, Carlton asked the elder-Negro:

"Didn't you ever tell (defense attorneys) that the only reason you knew it was Mr. Milam was because he (man at the door) was white and bald?

Wright sat silent.

"All you saw was a bald-headed man?

Wright paused.

"That's right."

THE SHARECROPPER said he had never seen Milam or Bryant before Till's abduction.

"Was there ever any light burning on in that house?

"No, sir.

"Did you ever see the flashlight shine in his (Bryant's) face that night?

"No, sir.

Wright still insisted he could identify the men.

The defense hammered hard at Wright's identification. He is reportedly the only eye witness—the district attorney's surprise witnesses as yet unidentified as something.

Two men last seen with slain Till are missing, paper said

MEMPHIS, Sept. 21—(AP)—The Memphis Press-Scimitar said today it had been told that two Negro men, last seen in the company of slain Emmett Till, had disappeared.

The newspaper said Reporter Clark Porteous also had unearthed information that could place the Till murder site in Sunflower County, Miss., rather than in Tallahatchie County where the trial of two white men accused of killing the young Chicago Negro is under way.

Porteous, in a story written from the Sumner, Miss., trial scene, said his new information had been obtained from Dr. T. R. M. Howard, a Negro physician and a resident of the all-Negro town of Mound Bayou, Miss.

PORTEOUS quoted Howard as saying he could produce four or five witnesses "at the proper time" who would testify that Till's slaying "probably" occurred in the headquarters shed of a plantation near Drew, Miss. Drew is in Sunflower County.

Howard also said, Porteous wrote, that his informants told him that they had seen four white men and three Negroes, including Till, enter the shed in a truck in the early morning hours of Aug. 28. That was the day young Till was taken from the home of his uncle, Mose Wright, near Honey, Miss.

Only the white men were seen in the truck when it left the shed, Howard said. A tarpaulin was spread over its pickup compartment, he said.

"THERE ARE witnesses," Howard said, "who heard the cries of a boy from the closed shed. They heard blows. They noted with anxiety of soul that the cries gradually decreased until they were heard no more."

Howard identified the two Negroes reported missing as Leroy Collins and Henry Lee Loggins, plantation workers.

The Till body was found in a river in Tallahatchee County. The state is believed not to know just where the lad was killed or where his body was placed in the river.



HARLEM WELCOMES MAMIE—A huge crowd gathers around Mrs. Mamie Bradley outside the Williams C.M.E. Church in Harlem during the recently held meeting to protest the acquittal of two white men accused in the slaying of Mrs. Bradley's son, Emmett Till. More than 10,000 angry New Yorkers turned out for the rally, sponsored by the International Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, and pledged to finance a "war" in Dixie or a mass migration of Negroes from the South. (Newspress Photo.)

Writer Reviews Passionate Closing Plea Of Till Case Atty.

SOUTHERN, MISS.—In one of the most passionate pleas ever made by a white man in the South on behalf of a Negro, District Attorney Gerald Chatham Friday begged an all-white jury to forget about race and "do right" and convict Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam for the murder of Emmett Till.

The powerfully-built District Attorney, serving his last year as prosecutor made the plea as he and Special Prosecutor Roy B. Smith closed their arguments and sent the case to the jury. It was one of the most dramatic highlights in the drama-studded trial as Mr. Chatham began his argument.

For here was a southern-born white man, facing an all-white jury and asking that jury to render a verdict which could hang two white men for killing a Negro. No white man has ever been given a death penalty in Mississippi for killing a Negro. It was a challenging and difficult moment in the career of Mr. Chatham, but in the interest of fair reporting it must be said that he rose to the challenge with all the ability at his command and he is a man of commanding ability.

HEARD OUTSIDE

In a loud booming voice which could be heard outside on the street below the courtroom, Chatham told the jury and the 175 whites and 23 colored people that he is "not concerned with the pressure and agitation which the trial has produced, either within or outside the state of Mississippi."

"But I am concerned" he said with what is morally and legally wrong." Then with a direct reference to Mrs. Mamie Bradley, mother of the dead Emmett Till he looked at the courtroom and the jury and said, "The next time it may be you who will be sitting here crying."

He said one day his own son had come to him after his dog had been missing for a few days and said to him, "Dad, I've found old Shep."

The prosecutor said his young son then took him by the hand and led him to a hollow ravine behind the barn and pointed to the badly decomposed body of his dog.

"That dog's body was rotting and the meat was falling off its bone," the prosecutor said, "but my little boy pointed to it and said, "That's old Shep, Pa. That's old Shep."

MOTHER'S TESTIMONY ENOUGH

Dramatically tying this illustration in with Mrs. Bradley's identification of her son, Chatham in a pleading voice to the jury said, "My boy didn't need no undertaker or a sheriff to identify his dog. And we don't need them here to identify Emmett Till. All we need is someone who loved him and cared for him."

"If there was one ear left, the hairline, one part of his nose, any part of Emmett Till's body, then I say to you that Mamie Bradley was God's given witness to identify him."

The aroused DA then turned to damaging testimony offered by a defense witness a white Doctor who had testified that the body could have been there at least ten days while Till had only been missing for three days.

COLOR QUESTION

On the stand the doctor, had stated that the body was so badly decomposed he could not tell whether it was colored or white. Addressing himself to this argument, Chatham said, "Everyone who has testified here has stated that this was the body of a colored boy. When the sheriff was first told of the body his informer said, "There is a little n. . . r boy in the river. Everybody who saw the body said, "a nigra boy is in the river."

But now we have this doctor come up here with all his degrees and titles and tell us that he couldn't tell whether it was a white boy or a colored boy.

"Tell you the people of this state are wasting their money sending a man to school and educating him to be a doctor when he is not able to tell a white man from a Negro."

"I want to say this about the doctor—if he can't tell black from white. I don't want him writing any prescriptions for me."

SOUTHERN ANGLE

Chatham did not miss any strong points in his plea for conviction of the two white men. He constantly reminded the jury that he was a son of the South and he pointed out that the jury knew as southerners that even if the Till boy had done something wrong all the white men had to do was to take a "razor strap — place him over a barrel and give him a good whipping."

"That's the way I deal with my boy," he said. "You deal with a child as if he is a child—not as if he is a man."

"But did they do this," he asked. "No they did not. Willie Reed (a colored witness) told you how he saw Emmett Till that Sunday morning on the Milam place and he told you how he later saw J. W. Milam with the pistol in his hand that. Uncle Mose saw him with too. If Willie Reed had been lying, the five lawyers for the defense would have had fifty people up here to say he was not qualified to speak.

"But did they do this? They did not. They couldn't do it because Willie Reed was telling the truth. But the next time anyone saw that little boy his feet were sticking up out of the river and he was dead."

Chatham called the boy's death a cowardly act and the unnecessary killing of a human being."

After he finished Mrs. Mamie Bradley who was seated next to me at the press table said: 'He couldn't have done any better."

Concluding his argument Chatham said: "I say to you, unless you judge this case on its merits it will endanger the precepts and examples which we hold dear here in the south."

By every courtroom standard the Mississippi born DA made a great plea for the dead colored youth. At times one got the feeling that he was in a Baptist church and that Chatham was the Baptist preacher.

For his numerous moments of brilliant oratory he brought tears to the eyes not only of those seated at the colored press table but to some of the white listeners as well.

DEFENSE ARGUMENT

One of the key arguments that the defense had made was that the body found in the river had not been that of Emmett Till. They had presented a doctor, a sheriff and two undertakers whose testimony attempted to show that it could not have been Till's body.

Against this testimony Chatham had relied heavily on the identification of the youth by his own mother. Recalling her testimony to the jury he told of the case of his own son who had a dog named "Shep."

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MURDER TRIAL DATE CONFERENCE HELD UP

Commercial Appeal

Judge Has Cold But Plans To Set Time Tomorrow

Thurs. 9-8-55

TWO 'IN GOOD SPIRITS'

P. 29 27a

Special to The Commercial Appeal

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 7.—A scheduled meeting to set a trial date for two white men indicted on murder and kidnap counts in the death of a Negro was postponed Wednesday due to the illness of the circuit judge.

Circuit Judge Curtis M. Swango of Sardis was confined to his hime Wednesday with a slight cold. He said his illness was not serious and he expected to be back in court at Sumner Friday.

A meeting between Judge Swango and members of the defense and prosecution teams had been scheduled for 9 Thursday morning. Judge Swango said unless lawyers on both sides agree between now and Friday on a date for start of the trial, he will set a date when he returns to the bench.

Trial of Roy Bryant, 24, Money, Miss., storekeeper, and his half-brother, J. W. Milam, 36, of Glendora, Miss., is expected to be held during the current term of court which has more than two full weeks to run. The men were indicted in the death of 14-year-old Emmett Till of Chicago, whose weighted body was found in the Tallahatchie River a week ago.

Sidney Carlton of Sumner, a defense attorney, said he would like for the trial to start Tuesday. Attorneys considered it highly improbable that the trial would start this week.

Bryant and Milam were lodged in the Tallahatchie County Jail at nearby Charleston Wednesday and Sheriff H. C. Strider Sr., said both apepared to be "in good spirits."

Officers said Till was taken from his uncle's home the morning of Aug. 28 after he "wolf whistled" and made "some remarks" to Roy Bryant's wife, an attractive 21-year-old mother, at the Bryant Store.

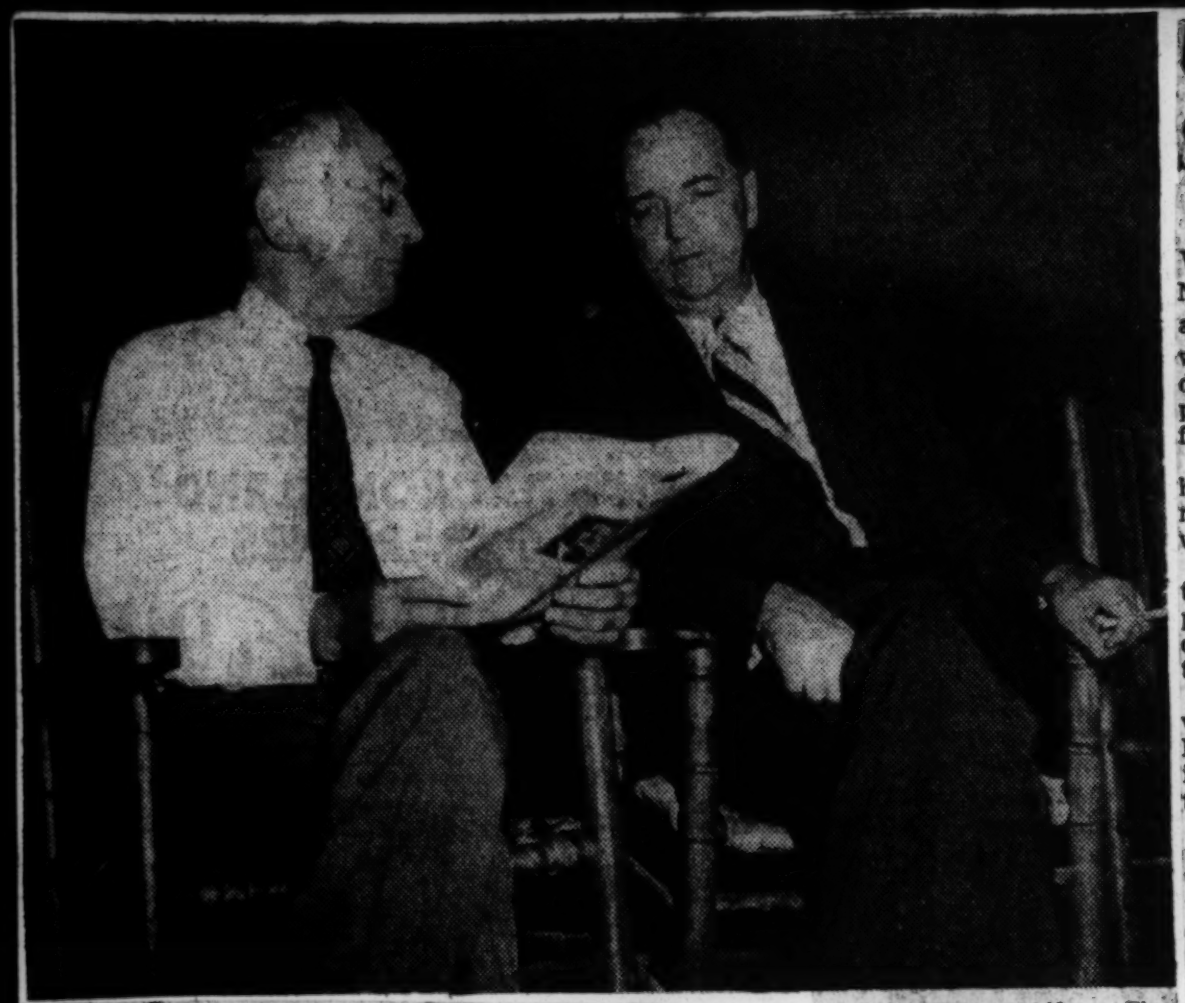


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COMFORT FIRST—Haircuts and shaves were first in order for J. W. Milam (left) and Roy Bryant (right) before their arraignment at Sumner, Miss., Tuesday. Both men entered not guilty pleas to indictments of murder and kidnaping in the death of Emmett Till, Chicago Negro. J. J. Taylor of Sumner was the barber.



TO HEAR CASE—Circuit Judge Curtis M. Swango will preside over the trials of Milam and Bryant which are expected to be heard during the current term of court.



LAWYERS TALK — The trials are uppermost in the minds of Dist. Atty. Gerald Chatham (right) of Hernando and J. J. Breland of Sumner, member of the defense counsel.

Trial of 2 in Negro Boy Slaying Set for Sept. 19

Herald Tribune N.Y. New York City Tel. 9-10-55

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 9 (AP)—Two white men charged with murdering a Negro boy who directed a "wolf whistle" at one of their wives will go on trial Sept. 19, it was announced today.

Circuit Judge Curtis M. Swango set the date after prosecution and defense attorneys said they saw no reason for delaying the trial of Roy Bryant and his half-brother, J. W. Milam.

Bryant and Milam are charged with kidnaping and killing fourteen-year-old Emmett Louis Till, of Chicago, because the boy whistled at Bryant's wife. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People charged the slaying was a lynching.

No decision was made immediately whether to try the men jointly or separately.

Judge Swango said he would draw a special venire of 125 names of Tallahatchie County voters for selection of the jury Monday. Women are prohibited from serving on the jury by state law.

The death penalty is mandatory for convicted murderers unless the jury recommends mercy.

Mother Asks Bodyguard

CHICAGO, Sept. 9 (AP)—The mother of Emmett Till said today she will ask for two Chicago detectives as bodyguards if she attends the trial in Mississippi of two men accused of killing him.

District Attorney Gerald Chatham, of Sumner, Miss., said he would invite Mrs. Bradley to testify in the trial and offer her "every reasonable" protection.

The mother said she has received more than $4,000 from sympathizers from all parts of the country. Mrs. Bradley said she has received no threats but at her request a policeman is guarding her twenty-four hours a day.

Uncle of Slain Negro Says He Fled Miss. Mob

Post + Times Herald Wed. 10-5-55

NEW YORK, Oct. 4 (AP)—Mose Wright, uncle of a Chicago Negro boy slain in Mississippi and chief witness against two white men charged with murder, has told a New York newspaper he had to flee for his life following the trial. P. 37

Wright, now in Chicago, gave his account of the trial's aftermath in a telephone interview with the New York Post.

He was quoted as saying three carloads of white men paid a midnight visit to his cabin just a few hours after the trial ended. Washington D.C.

"But I had been warned they were coming," Wright told the Post. "So I put my three sons in the car and we hid out in the bushes near the cemetery.

"My neighbors said they (the visitors) drove up and shone their lights on three sides of the house. They kept calling out: 'Preacher, Uncle Mose, come on out here.'

"And when they didn't get any answer, they pulled out their searchlights and ransacked the place."

Wright said he and his sons, ranging from 12 to 16 years old, remained "in the bushes" all night and then spent all the next day trying to sell—with little success—their possessions.

They went back into hiding the second night, he added, and left afterward on the journey which finally took them to Chicago.

Meanwhile, the Chicago Defender, a Negro weekly newspaper, said today that Levy Collins, 22, one of the men sought for questioning as possible witnesses in the slaying of the 14-year-old Chicago boy, Emmett Louis Till, denied he had "any connection with or knowledge of it."

The newspaper said that Collins, during two days of questioning by the newspaper, "established alibis" for both himself and Harry Loggins, 24, in connection with the disappearance of Till. Collins and Loggins are Negroes.

Rumors emanating from the trial in Sumner, Miss., of Roy Bryant, 24, and J. W. Milam, 36, who were acquitted of murdering Till, had it that Collins and Loggins might be eyewitnesses to the killing.

But Collins denied this, the Defender said.

INDICT TWO FOR MURDER IN TILL SLAYING AS DOUBTS ARISE OVER IDENTITY OF VICTIMS BODY

Greenwood, Miss. Sept 6 (DSN) While National Guardsmen patrolled the streets around the Courthouse here to ward off a rumored visit of Negroes from Chicago to avenge the crime, at nearby Sumner, in Tallahachie County, within whose domain the body of the victim was found in the Tallahatchie River. The Tallahatchie County Grand Jury returned an indictment for murder against the two White men, Roy Bryant, and his half brother, J. W. Milam, in the slaying of Emmett Louis Till, the 14-year-old Negro Boy, kidnaped from the home of his uncle following a "wolf-whistle" at Bryant's wife.

The indictments were returned Tuesday Morning shortly after additional witnesses were brought before the Jury which had been hearing testimony in the case since Monday afternoon.

The indictments charge Bryant and Milam with the kidnap and murder of Till as he visited in the home of his Uncle in the Money Community in Leflore County.

It was not immediately determined when the two men would be brought to trial. They may be tried jointly, or upon their request, they can be tried separately. They may be tried during the present term of court or during the next term which starts in March next year.

Atty. Sydney Carlton, one of the five defense lawyers, after the indictments were returned said that the defendants want quick action in the trial.

Under Mississippi law, conviction for murder carries the maximum penalty of death, kidnapping a maximum sentence of ten years.

The indictments were returned although some doubts had been created regarding the identy of the victim.

The Tallahatchie County Sheriff was first to raise the doubts when he is reported as saying that the body pulled out of the river looked more like that of a man than that of a boy, and that the shape of the head was different from that of a picture in the newspapers of the victim.

According to reports a Greenville Doctor is preparing to offer sensational evidence regarding the identity of the body when the case comes to trial.

In Chicago the Mother of the boy was positive beyond doubt that the body was that of her son.

The general opinion here was that the indictments had just about destroyed any doubts about the body being that of the victim.

125-Man Venire Named For Trial Of Miss. Lynch Suspects

Sheriff Plans To Deny Body That Of Youth

SUMNER, Miss. — (INS) — Court attaches Thursday completed the job of issuing summonses for a special 125-man venire for the trial Monday of two men accused of the "wolf whistle" death of a 14-year-old Chicago boy.

The special venile will provide the jury to hear murder charges against Roy Bryant, 24, and his half-brother, J. W. Milam, 36. They are accused of taking Emmett Louis Till, of Chicago, from the home of an uncle, because the boy allegedly whistled at Bryant's wife after visiting the county store the Bryants operated.

A body was found in a river near Sumner three days after the Till boy disappeared, and the uncle identified it as that of the Chicago youngster.

Sheriff H. C. Strider reiterated Thursday that he still does not believe the body taken from the river was actually that of the Till boy. He said it was too badly decomposed to have been in the water only three days.

Strider said he will testify along these lines when called to the stand during the trial.

Officials at Sumner still awaited word from Chicago, as to whether the mother of young Till would attend the trial. She had intended to be present, but had asked for the right to bring along Chicago detectives as her bodyguards. District Atorney D. A. Chatham promised her "reasonable protection" but said he saw no need for her to bring along special bodyguards.

Sheriff Strider said Thursday that no extra precautionary measures will be taken during the trial. He said he will not use National Guard troops, such as those that guarded the jail before the murder indictments were returned. Strider said he will use only Tallahatchie County deputies to maintain order.

Forget Emmett Till,' Marshall tells 500; bares plan for action

Afro-American Baltimore, Md.
Oct. 10-8-55

By JAMES L. HICKS

BROOKLYN, N.Y.—Out of the welter of confusion, anger, hatred and disgust connected with the Emmett Till murder Friday rose the bellowing, commanding voice of Thurgood Marshall.

Mr. Marshall had some advice for his people: He said, forget about the dead Emmett Till and sit down calmly and study the situation in order to determine what can be done for those who are still living, such as his mother and people still in Mississippi.

The advice came at another NAACP-sponsored rally in the Holy Rosary Church of Bainbridge Street in Brooklyn where more than 500 aroused persons braved a rainstorm to jam pack the church to hear Mr. Marshall and Mrs. Ruby Hurley, NAACP field worker who attended the Till trial, outline the NAACP's future plans for such incidents.

* * *

IN OFFERING his advice to forget the dead Chicago boy, Mr. Marshall was thoroughly respectful and apologetic.

He told his audience at the outset that what he would have to say might not be too well received by them, but he said he was going to say it anyway because it had to be said.

"I'm not going to make a speech," he said. "I'm just going to talk to you. It's going to hurt, but I'm going to talk to you."

Then in a 40-minute speech he proceeded to admonish the crowd for the way they and others like them have staged blind and angry protest rallies about Emmett Till without concentrating on how they can best use their strength to avoid such future occurrances.

* * *

LECTURING HIS audience as only Thurgood Marshall can, the NAACP counsel said: "You have to wait until a 14-year-old boy gets killed before you get excited. Yet, everyday in the deep South our people go through the same thing Emmett Till went through except that they are not killed. And some are killed—their deaths are just not reported."

Then he took up the trial. First he told his audience that they should forget about the two white men acquitted of the murder of the Chicago youth because from a legal standpoint there is absolutely "nothing in the world they can do to the two men now."

This statement obviously hurt the audience who was still seeking revenge on the two men, but they accepted it with the attitude that "who is better qualified to state the law than Thurgood?"

In attempting to soften the blow of his statement, Mr. Marshall recalled what his grandmother had often said to him, "There are sometimes," he quoted his grandmother as saying, "when there is absolutely nothing you can do about a situation but leave it to God."

* * *

HE THEN drew cheers when he told his audience to leave the two murderers of Emmett Till "to God."

He reminded the crowd that he had predicted in advance that the two men would be acquitted of murder and he then placed himself on record as saying that they will beat the upcoming kidnaping charges which will be heard against them this month.

They are going to be acquitted because a cooperative jury will believe them when they say that the boy went along willingly with them and that they did not kidnap him.

He reminded his audience that it would still be a jury of white men sitting in judgment on other white men in a case involving a colored boy.

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FOLLOWING THIS prediction, Mr. Marshall turned his attention to the upsurge of public opinion prevailing here in which people are suggesting all kinds of steps ranging from marching on Mississippi to a mass migration of all colored people from Mississippi.

He told his followers first to forget about any "big delegation" marching on the South.

"Violence," he said, "has nev been the answer to violence."

As to the idea of bringing all colored people out of Mississippi and having them come to New York and other northern cities, Mr. Marshall asked his audience "How many of you sitting here tonight have room in your homes for a half dozen or more Mississippi colored persons?'

* * *

WHEN NOBODY from the crowded tenments of Brooklyn raised their hands, Mr. Marshall went on:

"I know," he said, "that you get awful mad about things like this. But why don't you sit down calmly and see what you can do about such things?

Then his lecture completed, he proceeded to outline a plan of procedure for them much in the manner as a commanding general outlines a tactical combat plan to his staff officers.

The key to his plan was political action. The weapons he suggested was the ballot of the colored race.

The battleground he selected was the precincts and election districts of every city, county and state where American people vote.

The "D" day for the final battle was set as the start of the presidential campaign of 1956.

But though he obviously pictures the presidential campaign as the scene of the final struggle he urged his followers not to sit back and wait until that time.

* * *

ON THE CONTRARY, he himself launched an attack on the present administration by pointing out that the NAACP had wired President Eisenhower to "speak out" in the Till murder even before the trial began.

He said the NAACP did not expect Mr. Eisenhower to "speak out" while under his heart attack.

But he said the NAACP had been "impressed" with statements out of Washington as to how "smooth" the Eisenhower team was able to run the government in the absence of the President and that since things were running so smoothly the NAACP expected someone responsible for the smooth running of the government to speak out.

He further noted that the NAACP has called on the Justice Department to take action and that a call would be made on the Congress when it convenes.

* * *

HE SAID nothing has been done yet by the Justice Department and that he, along with others in the NAACP, would go along with a request for a special session of Congress to look into Mississippi justice.

Declaring that the Federal government is able to protect its citizens, Mr. Marshall said "Whether it does so or not depends on you."

Then he came to the focal point of his plan. Simply put, it amounted to this: Colored voters everywhere were urged to insist that their representatives both Federal and state stand up and be counted as to whether they will go along with such injustices as happen in Mississippi or whether they will stand up anywhere and oppose them even at the risk of their political future.

* * *

MR. MARSHALL said the time has come for colored people to stop drawing the line on colored and white. He said "Let's draw the line on who wants to go down the line for democracy for all Americans."

In making this statement he picked up a theme cited by Mrs. Hurley and which was aimed at Northern colored voters.

Mrs. Hurley had said that colored people of the South are saying that, "If the colored people up North, who CAN vote would vote right, we wouldn't have so much trouble."

In enlarging upon this theme, Mr. Marshall said, "Those who say wait are against us."

He likened this situation unto a housewife who puts her supper dishes into the sink and decides to wait until morning to wash them.

* * *

"ALL YOU CAN gain by such action," Mr. Marshall said, "is cock roaches! The longer you wait the more rotten this situation will get."

Rounding out his theme he said the NAACP will support the plan to deny seats to members of Congress whose districts deny colored people the right to vote. And bringing his message right down front to his audience he told them that they in the North could demand that their elected representatives support such a move.

And he said if their Congressmen are shy about joining a move to unseat other Southern congressmen who are actually illegally seated, they should say to their Congressmen "Either you vote to unseat him—or I will help to unseat you!"

* * *

THE RALLY which was under the direction of Brooklyn NAACP president Norman Johnson, raised $1,500 exclusive of membership funds which were reported.

Judge Myles Paige was among the speakers and State Senator Bertram Baker and other distinguished Brooklyn citizens occupied the platform with top NAACP officials including Gloster Current, director of Branches.

The tail end of the meeting took on the air of a political rally with several Brooklyn white candidates making the usual dull "you people," and "I'm with you" speeches.

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50,000 View Body Of 14-Year-Old Boy Found Slain In Mississippi

CHICAGO — (INS) — More than 10,000 persons crowded streets near the Church of God in Christ on the South side of Chicago Saturday to attend funeral services for 14-year-old Emmitt Louis Till who was slain in Mississippi early last week.

Daily World Atlanta Ga. Sun. 9-4-55

Services at the church at 4021 S. State St. were carried by loud speakers to the huge group of mourners standing in the street. The church, which seats 1,800, was filled to capacity.

Many clergymen and leaders spoke at the services for the boy, including Archibald Carey, a minister and former Chicago alderman, who said:

"It is not for us to avenge. A mob in Chicago is no better than a mob in Mississippi."

DUMPED IN RIVER

The youth, son of Mrs. Mamie R. Bradley, 33 (of 6427 S. St. Lawrence Ave.) was beaten and shot to death and his body dumped in a river near Greenwood, Miss., while he was visiting an uncle, Moses Wright, a tenant farmer at Money, Miss.

Police arrested two men who admitted taking the boy from Wright's home after accusing the boy of "wolf-whistling" at a white woman. The two, Roy Bryant, 25, a grocer in Money, Miss., and his half brother, J. W. Milam, 40, are held for grand jury action.

50,000 VIEW BODY

Since the boy's body was returned to Chicago, an estimated 50,000 persons had viewed the body after his grief stricken mother insisted that the pine box be opened to "let the people see what happened to my boy."

Relatives said Till's teeth were knocked out and the right side of his face caved in. There was a small bullet hole in his temple.

Bishop Louis H. Ford told mourners:

"Our country is spending millions trying to win the good will of colored people in Africa and India. Our president and vice president (Richard) Nixon and Secretary of State (John Foster) Dulles ought to be seeking the good will of colored people in Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia."

Investigation Of Boy's Death Ordered By Mississippi Gov.

Daily World Atlanta Ga. Fri. 9-2-55

GREENWOOD, Miss. — (INS) — Governor Hugh White of Mississippi ordered a complete investigation Thursday into the kidnap-murder of 14-year-old Emmitt Louis Till.

Gov. White wired law officials in Greenwood and Tallahatchie County, asking them to investigate the Negro Youth's death fully and "prosecute vigorously."

The governor said all lawmen involved promised to obey his order.

Along with the telegrams, Gov. White issued a statement in which he said, "Mississippi does not condone such conduct on the part of any of its citizens.

"MURDER—NOT LYNCHING

"It was not a lynching—it was straight murder!"

Sheriff H. C. Strider of Tallahatchie County, said he wants to bring the two men accused of the slaying to trial as soon as possible.

District Attorney Gerald Chatham said he plans to take the case to the Grand Jury next week.

KIDNAPED SUNDAY

The body of the victim, Emmitt Louis Till of Chicago, was found in the Tallahatchie River Wednesday. He was abducted from the home of an uncle he was visiting Sunday after allegedly "talking ugly" to a white woman, Mrs. Roy Bryant.

Mrs. Bryant's husband and his half-brother, J. W. Milam of Glendora, were charged with kidnapping before the boy's body was found.

Young Till had been beaten, shot through the head and thrown into the river, his body weighted down by a 150-pound gin fan secured with barbed wire.

Roy Wilkins, executive of the NAACP, said the case shows "Mississippi has decided to maintain white supremacy by murdering children."

Other protests were made to President Eisenhower and Mississippi state officials. William Henry Huff, attorney for the Chicago Branch of the NAACP, wrote President Eisenhower that the "dastardly act on the part of these criminal-minded persons is so outrageous that it opens the door for condemnation even from the President of the United States."

Governor White also replied to the telegram sent to him Wednesday by Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

In it, he said: "The parties charged with the murder are in jail. I have every reason to believe that the courts will do their duty in prosecution. Mississippi does not condone such conduct."

Mr. Wilkins stated that he was very glad that the governor had ordered the investigation and insisted upon prosecution.

In a reconstruction of the early (2:30) Sunday morning abduction, young Till's uncle 64-year-old Moses Wright said that the two men came to the house asking the whereabouts of "that boy from Chicago."

The aged man said that he thought the two men intended to whip his nephew and then release him.

He said: "They told me I wouldn't live to be 65 if I remembered their faces and told anybody." However, when the men left with his mother, he hastened to call the police from a nearby house.

Body Of Miss. Slay Victim Returns Home

Daily World Atlanta Ga. Sat. 9-3-55

CHICAGO—(INS)— The body of Emmett Louis Till, 14-year-old Negro boy who was slain in Mississippi early this week, arrived by train in Chicago Friday for burial in his home cemetery.

The boy's mother, Mrs. Mamie R. Bradley, 33, wept hysterically as her son's coffin was removed from the train.

When the coffin was taken to a funeral home, the mother insisted that the plain pine box be opened. She cried:

"LET THE PEOPLE SEE"

"Open it up. Let the people see what happened to my boy."

The coffin was opened and relatives and friends reported that the boy's head appeared badly battered. Almost all of his teeth were knocked out and the right side of his face was caved in. There was a small bullet hole through the temple.

Two white men, Roy Bryant, 25, a grocer in Money, Miss., and his half brother, J. M. Milam, 40, have been arrested on charges of kidnaping young Till from the home of a relative Sunday night.

Later the boy's body was found in the Tallahatchie River, weighted down with iron and barbed wire.

ADMIT ABDUCTION

Police said the pair admitted kidnaping Till because they charged he had whistled at Bryant's wife.

On Tuesday, a grand jury will meet to consider murder indictments.

Till's funeral is scheduled this morning from Robert's Temple of the Church of God in Christ (4021 So. State.). Burial will be Burr Oaks Cemetery.

Demands by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People that the boy's killers be punished have been received by Gov. Hugh White of Mississippi and by President Eisenhower.

Daily World Atlanta Ga.

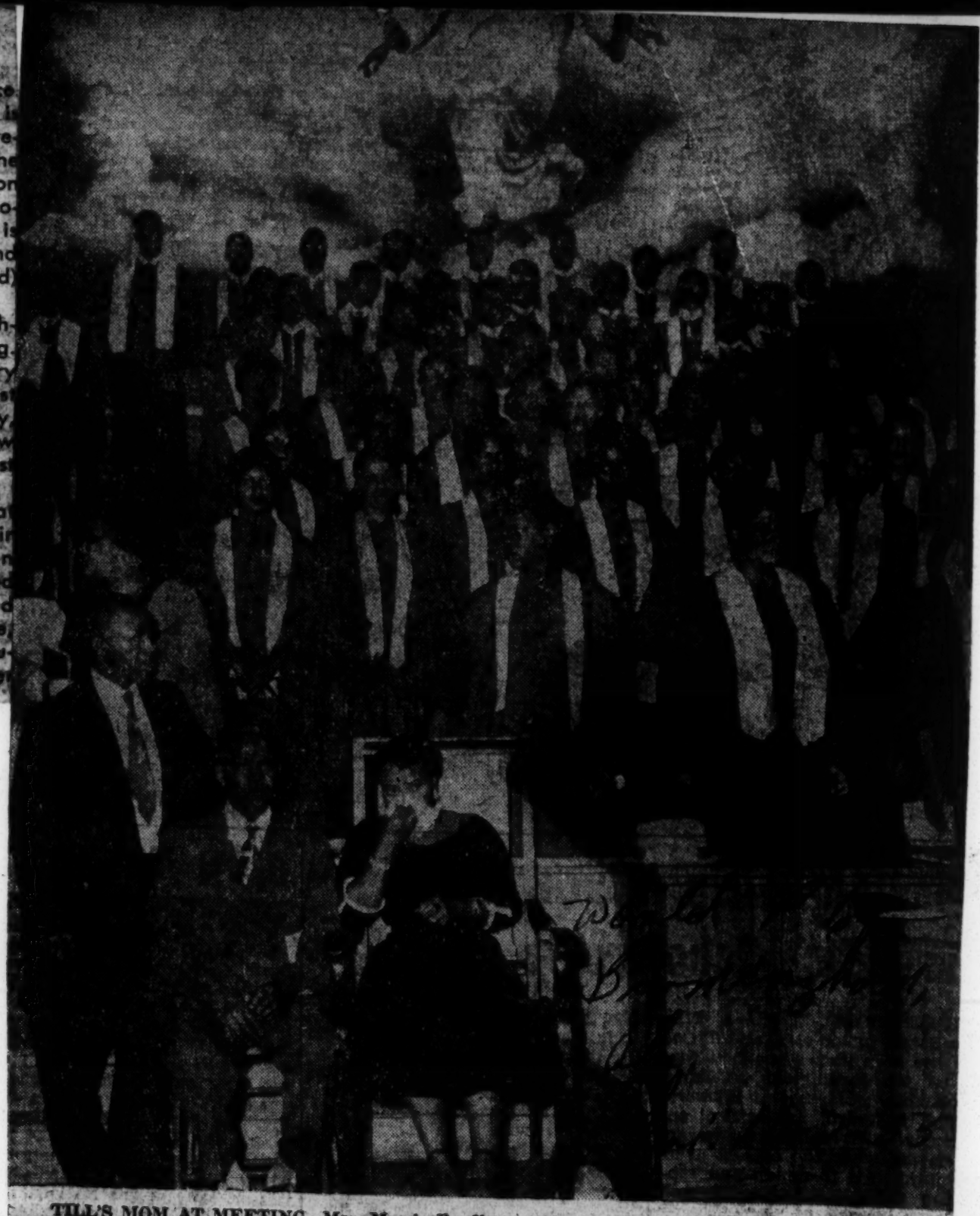
Disgrace In Mississippi

(From The New York Herald Tribune)

The sovereign state of Mississippi has just suffered a disgrace. Down in the Delta country a visiting Negro boy from Chicago is supposed to have insulted a white woman by making "ugly remarks" and for that heinous offense was kidnaped, shot in the head and dumped into the Tallahatchie River. This, in the opinion of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, constitutes a lynching. Regardless of definition (lynching is supposed to consist of mob action by at least three persons, and in this case it is unclear whether more than two were involved) the boy is just as dead. He was murdered by lynchers in spirit.

There was a time when Tuskegee Institute in Alabama gathered statistics each year on the grisly phenomenon of lynching. But the last established instance was in 1951, and the country congratulated itself thereafter that this particular outrage against law and order, especially directed against the Negro minority, had been stamped out by growing enlightenment. It seems now that the self-esteem may have been slightly premature, at least as related to some part of Mississippi.

The white supremacists in Mississippi are quick to say that this murder on the Tallahatchie cannot rightly be blamed on their resistance to desegregation. Of course they do not condone even the approximation of lynching, but it is hard to see how calculated inflammation — politically and economically — can fail to feed the fires. In the case of the Chicago boy, Emmitt Till by name, Mississippi is on the defense. We hope there will be swift prosecution to maintain law against the forces of darkness and to deter any other would-be lynchers.



TILL'S MOM AT MEETING—Mrs. Mamie Bradley wipes away her tears, and is comforted by her father, John Carthan (center), and cousin, United Steel Workers Union representative Raphael Mooty, as the three Chicagoans appear at the recent rally in Harlem, called to protest the lynching of Mrs. Bradley's son. Thousands jammed the Williams Institutional C.M.E. Church to hear a raft of speakers call for: 1) A march on Washington; 2) Mass migration of Negroes from the South; 3) An all out "war" against Dixie bigots by Negro residents, with a financial assist coming from the North. (Newspress Photo.)

27a 1955

8835

MISSISSIPPI

Two White Men Go On Trial In Negro's Death Tomorrow

(Pictures and Additional Stories in Section Five)

Commercial Appeal

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 17.—Two white men go on trial here Monday in the widely publicized slaying of a 14-year-old Negro boy.

Sun. 9-18-55

Roy Bryant, 24-year-old Money, Miss., storekeeper, and his half brother, J. W. Milam, 36, of Glendora, Miss., have entered pleas of not guilty to murder and kidnap indictments in Tallahatchie County Circuit Court. The murder trial is scheduled to be held first.

The victim was identified as Emmett L. Till of Chicago who reportedly "wolf whistled" and made "ugly remarks" to Bryant's attractive wife in the Bryant store near Money in Leflore County.

Memphis,

12 White Men On Jury

A special venire of 120 prospective jurors and a regular panel of 48 jurors have been summoned to appear Monday morning. From these groups, 12 white men will be selected to hear the case.

Till was taken from the home of his uncle, Mose Wright of Money, Aug. 28 and Bryant and Milam were arrested on kidnap charges. They were jailed in the Leflore County Jail at Greenwood.

The youth's body was found in the Tallahatchie River near Philipp in Tallahatchie County Aug. 31. His body was weighted with a heavy cotton gin fan and he had been beaten and shot.

Sept. 6, the Tallahatchie County Grand Jury indicted Bryant and Milam on murder and kidnap counts. They were arraigned and pleaded not guilty the same day.

Sheriff H. C. Strider of Tallahatchie County has expressed doubt that the body recovered was actually that of Till, giving as his reason the advanced state of decomposition.

The body was returned to Chicago for burial and was displayed in public for several days as the youth's mother, Mamie Bradley, said she wanted folks to see "what they did to my boy." The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People took up a collection near the casket.

Anonymous Phone Tips

Anonymous phone tips that demonstration was planned in Greenwood against Milam and Bryant the week end before their arraignment led officers to transfer them to Greenville. After they departed, special deputies and the National Guard were called out for a show of force around the Leflore County courthouse and jail.

There were no incidents, however.

Leflore County officers said Bryant and Milam admitted taking the boy from the Wright home, but said they released him unharmed when it was discovered he was not the youth who had insulted Mrs. Bryant.

MOTHER OF TILL STILL UNDECIDED

Times-Picayune

Wants Protection Before Coming for Trial

New Orleans, La.

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 10 (AP)—The question of whether the mother of a Negro boy slain in Mississippi will testify at the trial of two white men bounced around between Chicago, Washington and Mississippi Saturday—with no answer.

Sun. 9-11-55

Roy Bryant, 24, and 36-year-old J. W. Milam, his half-brother, stand trial Sept. 19 on a charge of murdering 14-year-old Emmett Louis Till who was visiting his uncle.

P-22

An attorney for the mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley of Chicago, said he asked the US Justice Department to assign FBI agents to protect Mrs. Bradley during the trial.

Attorney William Henry Huff said "in the event of a formation of riot proportion, no two or three deputies will be able to protect this woman and her relatives."

The Justice Department said the FBI doesn't guard anyone, and added that Mississippi has promised Mrs. Bradley protection.

Till's mother earlier asked for two Chicago detectives as bodyguards.

Dist. Atty. Gerald Chatham, who will prosecute the case, called the bodyguard proposal "absurd."

"If they're trying to make a farce out of this trial, that's a good way to go about it," Chatham said.

"We offered her any reasonable protection. She won't need any at all, far as that goes."

The Chicago attorney also suggested that Chatham subpena Mrs. Bradley as a state witness because state witnesses "are entitled to the fullest measure of protection."

Chatham replied that a subpena already has been issued for Mrs. Bradley, a routine matter. But the subpena can't be served on her unless she comes to Mississippi, since the subpena is not valid outside the state.

Chatham said last week he would like Mrs. Bradley to testify.

Meanwhile, Gov. Hugh White formally assigned a special assistant attorney general to help Chatham, at the district attorney's request.

"The people of Mississippi are anxious to see justice done in this case according to the law and the evidence," he said, "and as governor I am glad to provide special counsel as evidence of our good faith in this prosecution."

Atty. Gen. J. P. Coleman, who will succeed White as governor next January, earlier had named a former FBI agent, Robert B. Smith II of Ripley, special assistant attorney general. The governor then assigned him to the case.

Circuit Judge Curtis Swango will take the first step in prosecution of the case when he draws a special jury panel of 12 men Monday. Women do not serve on juries in Mississippi.

The state will try Bryant and Milam first on the murder indictment, skipping a kidnaping indictment until later. The maximum penalty for murder is death in the gas chamber. The minimum is life in prison.

Bryant and Milam are accused of kidnaping the 14-year-old Chicago boy from his uncle's home in the early morning hours of Aug. 28 and murdering him because he whistled or made obscene remarks to Mrs. Bryant in the Bryant store at nearby Money.

Two Face Trial In Mississippi

Advertiser

Sun. 9-18-55

White Men Charged With Slaying Negro

P-1

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 17 (AP)—A sensational trial rattles the quiet routine of this little farm town Monday when two white men face charges of murdering a Negro boy who whistled at a white woman.

Montgomery Ala.

National attention centers on the dusky town built around the traditional court house square, half a mile from a main highway. It centers on a county where Negroes outnumber whites 3 to 1.

The slaying of 14-year-old Emmett Louis Till of Chicago brought a cloudburst of protest from other states.

Despite the state's taut race relations, Sheriff H. C. Strider said he expects no incident. He took off for a weekend trip to Atlanta and the Mississippi-Georgia football game.

There has been no repetition of the rumors of invading Chicago Negroes and threatening telephone calls which brought out the National Guard in Greenwood when the two accused men were in jail there two weeks ago.

The trial begins three weeks and two days after Till's body, a bullet hole in his head and a weight around his neck, was pulled from the muddy Tallahatchie River. The scene was a quarter of a mile inside Tallahatchie County.

The boy, visiting a tenant farmer uncle reportedly whistled at the wife of a storekeeper in Money, a tiny community in neighboring Leflore County, and some reports said he also made some "ugly remarks."

The climax of the explosive case begins with selection of an all-white jury at 9 a.m. CST in the little courtroom of an old, grey brick courthouse. No Negroes will serve on the jury. None is listed on the special 125-man jury panel drawn for the trial. That's customary in Tallahatchie County.

Women do not serve on Mississippi juries.

The state will try to convince the jury "beyond all reasonable doubt and to a moral certainty" that Roy Bryant, 24, and his half brother, 35-year-old J. W. Milam, killed the lad.

The accused men admitted taking Till from his uncle's home, officers said, but said they released him unharmed when Mrs. Bryant said he was not the boy who whistled at her.

The men pleaded innocent to the murder indictment. They also face a kidnaping indictment in Tallahatchie County and a kidnaping charge in adjoining Leflore County where Till was abducted.

Dist. Atty. Gerald Chatham has refused to say whether he will ask the death penalty. Defense attorneys expect him to.

Chatham's questioning of prospective jurors should answer the question. The minimum penalty for murder is life imprisonment. The maximum penalty for kidnaping is 20 years imprisonment.

To gain a conviction, the state must fill in details of a period from 3:30 a.m., of a hot summer Sunday when Till was taken, until late afternoon of the same day when Bryant was arrested by Sheriff George Smith of Leflore County. Smith arested Milam the next day.

Officers reportedly have not found the murder gun, or the spot where Till was slain. If they have witnesses to any events after Till's abduction, they are keeping them secret.

Advertiser

Some doubt has been expressed about the identification of the body found in the river. Sheriff Strider doubts it was Till. The boy's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley, of Chicago, says it was "beyond all shadow of a doubt."

Sun. 9-18-55

The boy's mother, fearing violence, kept secret her plans for traveling to the trial "as quietly as I can get there." She agreed to testify after days of wavering.

P-34

"I would just as soon not have too many people meeting me. There's no way to tell whether they are friends or foes."

She scheduled a Sunday appearance at a Cleveland rally of the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People before going to Summer.

Montgomery Ala.

The NAACP called Till's death a lynching, the first in the United States since 1951. NAACP executive secretary Roy Wilkins said Mississippi is willing to keep segregation even "by murdering children."

The state's newspapers replied to that. They condemned the killing and the NAACP's activities in the same breath.

County officers expect a speedy trial. "It'll be over by Wednesday, maybe Tuesday night," one said and asked to remain anonymous. That would mean three days for jury selection, testimony, arguments to the jury and a jury verdict.

The official said the state seems to have little evidence.

Bryant and Milam will stand trial together. "Its all right with us," said defense attorney J. J. Breland. "The facts are the same."

Defense attorneys—all five of Sumner's lawyers—did not ask for separate trials.

Opposed by five lawyers, Dist. Atty. Chatham asked for help. Atty. Gen. J. P. Coleman, governor-nominee, appointed a former FBI agent, Robert B. Smith III of Ripley, a special assistant attorney general to help Chatham.

White citizens of Tallahatchie County started a fund to pay the five defense lawyers.

Tallahatchie and Leflore counties are in the rich agricultural Delta. The land is level, almost like a Western plain, but broken by trees, rivers and bayous.

Cotton is still king, resisting advances of livestock, rice and industry. The summer sun has popped open millions of cotton bolls and field hands are picking the crop.

The little community of Money—about 100 persons—is 10 miles north of Greenwood in Leflore County. A gravel road winds another 15 miles north to the death site in Tallahatchie County. Gravel roads intersect the southern part of Tallahatchie County, forced into winding routes by the twists and turns of the river and its tributaries.

The state must prove that the

circuit court in Sumner, in the county's 2nd Judicial District, has jurisdiction over the case.

Despite the failure to find the spot where Till was murdered, the state may get help from a law which says in part:

"... But, if on the trial the evidence makes it doubtful in which of several countires or judicial districts ... including that in which the indictment or affidavit alleges it, the offense was committed, such doubts will not avail to procure the acquittal of the defendant."

The jury can return four verdicts on the murder indictment: 1. Acquittal; 2. Guilty as charged, which makes a death sentence mandatory; 3. Guilty with a sentence of life imprisonment and 4. Guilty with disagreement on the penalty. In this case the judge must set a life sentence.

U.S. Orders Probe of Negro Vote Rights in Mississippi

Daily Tribune
Fri. 9-2-55

Washington, Sept. 1 (AP)—Atty. Gen. Brownell said today he has ordered an investigation to find out whether constitutional rights of Negroes were violated in recent Mississippi elections. P. 5

Brownell said in a statement he had received numerous complaints that Negroes "tho registered and otherwise qualified" were denied the right to vote in both the first and second primaries in Mississippi in August. Chicago Ill.

Report Ballots Refused

"Reports indicate that in some counties Negroes were refused ballots when they allegedly failed to answer correctly several irrelevant and frequently illegal questions," the statement said.

"In other counties the indications are that ballots cast by Negroes were apparently not counted and that Negroes were kept from the polls by threats and intimidation."

Brownell's announcement did not specify who is conducting the investigation but justice department sources disclosed that federal bureau of investigation agents are working on it.

Jurisdiction Questioned

Brownell said that since the primaries involved no candidates for federal office, the jurisdiction of the justice department under the Constitution must first be determined.

"I have already directed that an investigation be conducted," Brownell said. "If it discloses that any citizen has been deprived of his constitutional rights, immediate and vigorous action will follow."

The investigation presumably will center around the question of whether civil rights statutes were violated in connection with the election.

FIND KIDNAPED CHICAGO BOY'S BODY IN RIVER

Daily Tribune
Thurs. 9-1-55
P. 1
Chicago Ill.

Weighted Down by 150 Pound Wheel

Greenwood, Miss., Aug. 31 [Special]—The body of a 14 year old Chicago Negro boy, Emmett Louis Till, who was kidnaped early Sunday at the nearby village of Money, was found today in the Tallahatchie river near Pecan point, about 25 miles north of Greenwood and 12 miles north of Money.

He reportedly had been killed either by a blow or a bullet in the head. The only law enforcement authorities who could be reached were vague on this point.

Weighted Down by Wheel

The body was weighted down with a gin pulley, a cast iron wheel used to operate a cotton gin. The wheel, approximately a foot and a half in diameter, weighed 150 to 200 pounds. It was attached to the boy's body with barbed wire wrapped around his waist.

The body was found in shallow water by a fisherman named Mims. The Leflore county sheriff's office apparently expected to learn Mims' first name. "I don't think that's important," said Deputy [redacted] McCool.

[redacted] said he presumed that an autopsy would be performed. He didn't know by whom. Sheriff George Smith was out of town on business, McCool said. Prosecutor J. J. Frazier couldn't be reached, and neither could George Everett, an FBI agent stationed here. The body was found in Tallahatchie county, and no law enforcement officers or prosecuting officers of that county who knew anything about the case were located.

Admits Taking Away Boy

Two men, in jail here charged with the kidnaping of Till, will be charged with murder, McCool said.

They are Roy Bryant, a grocer of Money, and Bryant's half-brother, J. W. Milam of Glendora.

Authorities previously have said that Bryant has admitted going to a home where Till was visiting and taking the boy to his store early Sunday. Bryant said he released the boy after ascertaining that he was not the one who made "ugly remarks" to Mrs. Bryant at the Bryant store last Wednesday.

Till was visiting his uncle and aunt, Moses and Elizabeth Wright, a farm couple living at Money. Wheeler Parker, 16, of Argo, Ill., another Negro who was visiting the Wrights, has said that Till whistled at a "pretty lady" at the store, and that this may have been the cause of the trouble.

3 Men and Woman

The Wrights told Sheriff Smith that three armed white men and a woman came to their home last Sunday and kidnaped Till. McCool was unable to confirm or deny reports that Smith has concluded there were only two white men involved. P 2

"I think you're making a big to-do about this," McCool told a reporter seeking to learn routine facts about the case.

In New York City, a spokesman for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People said the slaying appeared to "qualify as a lynching." He said the last previous established case of lynching occurred in 1951 at Winter Garden, Fla., where Melvin Womack was killed by four men who beat him on the head with a pistol butt.

MOTHER DEFENDS BOY

"Emmett was a good boy. I know he didn't do anything wrong," said Mrs. Mamie Bradley, 34, of 3427 St. Lawrence av., after she was informed by a friend her son, Emmett Louis Till, 14, had been found dead in the Tallahatchie river at Greenwood, Miss.

"Emmett was mischievous, but he was not a bad boy," she said. "He's never been in any trouble. He's been my life saver—did the washing, ironing, and housework so I could work. He has stood by me like a man. How could anyone do this terrible thing to him?"

Emmett was an 8th grader at the McCosh school, 6543 Champlain av. He was born in Chicago and had [redacted] in Mississippi only once [redacted], on a visit five years [redacted] his grandfather, Henry [redacted]n, 1626 W. 14th pl., [redacted] a Chicago resident [redacted] and is a plant guard [redacted] Inland Steel Co[redacted]any.

8836

COURT REFUSES TO LET JURORS HEAR TESTIMONY

Times-Picayune

Story of Indecent Advance Told for Record

Fri. 9-23-55

By W. F. MINOR

(Times-Picayune Staff Correspondent)

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 22—In an action-packed day of testimony in the Emmett Till murder case, the court in a surprise move Thursday refused to let the trial jury hear a white woman say "a Negro man" made indecent advances to her.

P. 1

Mrs. Roy Bryant, a trim little brunette, whose husband, and brother-in-law, J. W. Milam, are on trial for slaying Till, was able to tell her story to the court, but not in front of the jury.

It had been a reported "wolf whistle" by Till to Mrs. Bryant which authorities believed had set off the events leading to Till's death.

New Orleans

Circuit Judge Curtis Swango ruled that Mrs. Bryant's statement of events which took place four days prior to the alleged disappearance of Till on Aug. 28 was not competent evidence since it could not be connected as an incident showing that the deceased boy committed an overt or aggressive act with relation to the two defendants.

Story Put In Record

Defense attorneys took exception to the ruling, but proceeded to put her story in the record should the case go to an appeal court.

Earlier, the state had pulled its "mystery" witnesses to the stand to support new evidence that Till had been taken to a shed on a farm near Drew, Miss., from which sounds of a beating and cries were heard.

One of the "mystery" witnesses, Willie Reed, a 17-year-old Negro boy, had identified Milam as one of four white men he had seen at the shed.

Reed said also that a Negro boy he had seen in a truck which drove up to the shed "favored" Emmett Till.

During the long day of testimony, the state rested its case and the defense launched its case.

Only character witnesses on the part of the defendants are slated to be heard Friday morning before closing arguments which will send the case to the all-male and all-white jury.

Judge Swango had overruled a motion tossed in by the defense Thursday seeking a directed verdict of not guilty, after the state completed its case.

'Presents Issues'

"The court is of the opinion that the testimony offered by the state as a whole presents issues for the determination of the jury."

The defense, which had led off with Mrs. Bryant as its key witness in the case, apparently suffered a setback when her testimony was excluded from the ears of the jury.

Mrs. Bryant, 21, and the mother of two young children, said that "a Negro man" with a "Northern accent" had come into the store the night of Aug. 24 while she was alone.

Times-Picayune

He grabbed her hand when she sought to give him change, and asked her "How about a date baby," the woman testified.

She said that the man had then grabbed her around the waist and said "What's the matter baby, can't you take it?"

Mrs. Bryant said that the man, using a vulgar word, said "I've . . . white women before."

At this point, she said, another Negro came in and pulled him out by the arm.

Ran to Get Pistol

She said she ran outside and got a pistol out of the car because she was "scared to death."

Before the Negro got into the car outside, she said that he had "whistled at me."

Defense attorney Sidney Carlton, imitating a "wolf whistle," asked if the whistle sounded like that, and Mrs. Bryant agreed.

At the time she was in the store alone, Mrs. Bryant said, She said her husband, 24-year-old Roy, was in Brownsville, Tex., where he had driven a truckload of shrimp from New Orleans.

The state in Wednesday's testimony had succeeded in placing in evidence statements received by Leflore county officers from Bryant and Milam that they had gone to the cotton field house of Mose Wright, a 64-year-old sharecropper, on Aug. 28 and taken "the boy" from the house.

The statements of Milam and Bryant were to the effect that they brought the boy back to the store to show him to Mrs. Bryant. They said they had released him in front of the store when they found he "was the wrong one."

Sheriff Key Witness

Mrs. Bryant said on the stand Thursday during her statements in absence of the jury that she had never seen the Negro who made the advances to her again after the night of Aug. 24.

Sheriff H. C. Strider of Tallahatchie county, in whose county the body was found floating in the river, became a key witness for the defense when he testified Thursday.

Because of the condition of the body, Strider said, "if one of my boys had been missing, I couldn't have said it was my son."

The sheriff said that from experience, he believed the body had been in the water "at least 10 days, if not 15."

The body which the state says is Till's was found in the muddy Tallahatchie river three days after the 14-year-old Chicago schoolboy was reported missing.

Strider said that the body had not been identified, at the river bank by Mose Wright, the boy's great uncle with whom he was visiting. He said he had not listed the identity of the body on the death certificate.

Questions Fired

But special prosecutor Robert B. Smith III, of Ripley, fired a question at Strider:

"Have you made an investigation of whose body it is?"

Strider said that he "has been investigating."

"But you've gotten no information as to whose body it was?"

"No, sir."

Dr. L. B. Odkin, Greenwood physician who had been called to look at the body pulled from Tallahatchie river, said the body was "in the advance stage of decomposition."

Odkin, called as a defense witness, testified that he believed the body had been in the water for a "minimum" of eight to 10 days and a "maximum" of two weeks.

Asked by defense attorney J. J. Breland if he believed that the condition of the body could be identified by a member of the family, Dr. Odkin said he "doubted it."

Earlier in the day, one of the state's major witnesses had been Mrs. Bradley, Chicago, the mother of the Till boy.

Identified Body

Mrs. Bradley, careful to say "yes sir," and "no sir" to questions asked by both the prosecution and defense testified that the body shipped back to Chicago was "definitely my boy beyond a shadow of a doubt."

Shown a picture made by the Greenwood police photographer of the body taken from Tallahatchie river Aug. 31, Mrs. Bradley choked up, took off her glasses and wiped at her eyes.

The Chicago woman, over objections by the state, testified to a defense question that two life insurance policies were carried on Emmett.

The two policies, she said, totaled $400. On one she was the beneficiary, and on the other her mother was the beneficiary.

"Have you collected on them?" asked defense attorney J. J. Breland.

"No, sir, I have been waiting to see the death certificate," she replied.

Judge Swango permitted the introduction of a photograph made of the Till boy at his home in Chicago two days after Christmas, 1954 and the clipping of a photograph of the corpse published in a Chicago Negro newspaper.

He prohibited questions by the defense seeking to learn what Chicago newspapers Mrs. Bradley subscribed to.

Mrs. Bradley said that before Emmett had left on the trip to visit his uncle in Mississippi she had cautioned him on how to conduct himself.

"I told him he would have to be very careful how he spoke and to whom he spoke, and to say yes, sir, and no, sir, and yes, ma'am, and no, ma'am, when he spoke to white people," she testified.

The testimony of Willie Reed was relied upon by the state to fill in the gap between the disappearance of Till from his uncle's house at around 2:30 a. m. on Aug. 28 until his battered body had been pulled from the Tallahatchie river, weighted with a cotton gin fan attached to the neck by barbed wire.

Reed said that he lived with his grandfather on a farm near a Sunflower county farm managed by Leslie Milam, brother of J. W. Milam.

"Do you know J. W. Milam?" prosecutor Smith asked the witness.

"Yes, sir."

"Did you see Mr. J. W. Milam on Aug. 28."

"Yes, sir."

"Where did you see him?"

"On the place run by Mr. Leslie Milam."

The Reed boy said he saw Milam come out of the shed to the rear of the farmhouse and go to a water well. He said that Milam was armed with a pistol.

The boy said that he had seen a white-topped and green bottom pickup truck drive into the Leslie Milam place as he was walking up the road between 6 a. m. and 7 a. m. on that day.

Four white men were in the cab of the truck, Reed said, and three Negroes were sitting on the sides of the back of the truck. A fourth Negro, he said, was on the bottom of the truck, with the back of his head up against the truck's cab.

The seated Negro, Reed said, looked like the picture of Emmett Till which was shown him as an exhibit in the trial.

Reed said that he had gone up the road and on the way back he heard "somebody hollering and heard some licks."

Add Reed, grandfather of the Reed boy, said he had seen the same pickup truck at the Leslie Milam farm that morning and that he also saw two men, one Leslie Milam.

A third witness, Mary Bradley, said that she had seen a man going to a well outside the shed who was "a tall man, baldheaded."

This description is similar to that of J. W. Milam.

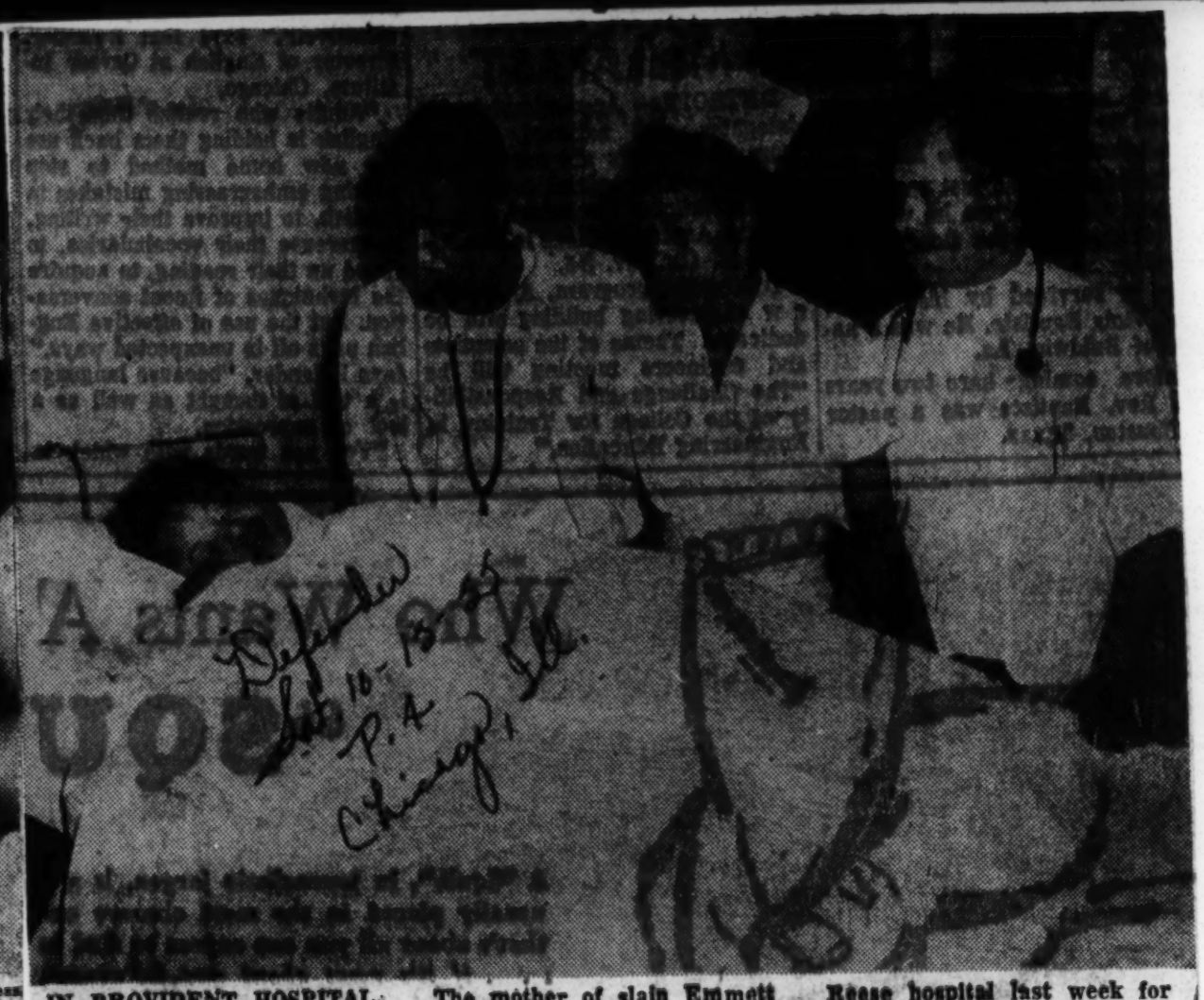
Neither Bryant nor Milam apparently will take the stand in their own defense in the case.

Defense attorneys said that the only further witnesses to be called will be persons to testify to the character of the two men.



—WIREPHOTO by The Associated Press

THE MOTHER OF EMMETT TILL, Mrs. Mamie Bradley, is escorted to the witness stand Thursday during the Sumner, Miss., Bryant-Milam murder trial by Ben Selby, chief deputy sheriff. She testified she positively identified in Chicago a body taken from the Tallahatchie river as that of her son.



IN PROVIDENT HOSPITAL, Mrs. Mamie Bradley rests following examination by doctors and nurse. Mrs. Bradley entered [redacted] last Saturday for tre[redacted] nervous fatigue. The mother of slain Emmett Till had just returned from Detroit where she had addressed a mass rally. Willie Reed, surprise witness in the Till case, was admitted to Michael Reese hospital last week for treatment of shock. The hospital rooms of both Reed and Mrs. Bradley were under police guard. Defender photo.

Mrs. Bradley Ready To OK Exhumation Of Slain Son

Defender Sat. 10-15-55 P. 4

Chicago Ill.

In Provident hospital, where she was taken Saturday suffering from nervous tension, Mrs. Mamie Bradley, said Tuesday that she was willing to consent to an exhumation of the body of her son, Emmett Till, slain in Mississippi, August 28.

But, she added, she would be guided by the advice of her mother, Mrs. Alma Spearman and her attorney, William Henry Huff.

The question was put to her by her physician at the request of the Defender to clear up conflicting reports about the body of the 14-year-old boy being exhumed.

Mrs. Bradley was not permitted to have visitors. Her doctors also ruled out interviews and photographs.

The question of exhuming the body was first raised after defense attorneys during the trial of two white men charged with his death claimed the body claimed by Mrs. Bradley was not that of her son.

Meanwhile, in another Southside hospital, Michael Reese, Willie Reed, 18, important witness in the trial, was reported "resting comfortably". He, too, was confined suffering from nervous strain.

8837

MISS. ACQUITS TILL DEATH SUSPECTS

...ury, Mostly Farmers, Deliberates One Hour For 'Not Guilty' Verdict

Wire Birmingham Ala.
Tues. 9-27-55 P 1

By JAMES L. KILGALLEN

SUMNER, Miss. — (INS) — Roy Bryant and his half-brother, W. Milam, were swiftly acquitted by an all-white, male jury day afternoon of the charge of having murdered Emmett Louis ll, 14-year-old Chicago Negro boy.

The jury was out just one hour and 7 minutes.

A murmur swept the crowded and sweltering courtroom as Juror A. Shaw announced the verdict, there was no demonstration.

Bryant, 24, and Milam, 36 — accused of murdering young Till because he had allegedly whistled at and made improper advances to Bryant's wife — looked happily at each other when the verdict was announced, several persons nearby shook their hands.

The jury, comprised predominately of cotton country farmers, retired at 2:35 P. M. (CST) and announced at 3:42 that it was ready with its verdict. In sending the jury out to deliberate Judge Curtis M. Swango had instructed that the verdict, when returned, be in writing.

QUICK VERDICT EXPECTED

While the jury was deliberating the large crowd in the courtroom — apparently anticipating a fairly quick verdict — remained in their seats.

At 3:42 P. M. the bailiffs guarding the door to the Jury room were informed that the jury was ready to report. The jurors were brought immediately into the courtroom.

Judge Swango rapped his gavel to quell down the murmer that had arisen and he warned that there was to be no demonstration when the verdict was announced. He also said that photographers were not to make pictures.

The jury, looking very solemn, filed to the box to the right of the judge's bench and prepared to sit down. The judge instructed them to stand and asked if they had reached a verdict.

"We have," said juror Shaw, of Webb, Miss. All the jurors were now standing.

"What is your verdict?" inquired the court.

"Not guilty," said Shaw.

A buzz of conversation started but immediately stopped when the judge looked sternly at the spectators.

So that the proceedings would be orderly in every sense the judge reminded the jurors that he previously had instructed them to write their verdict on a white piece of paper. He provided them with a new blank and asked them to go back into the Grand Jury room — which the jury used — and follow out the court order.

This they did. They returned to the jury box and Shaw said:

"We the jurors find the defendants not guilty."

NO KIDNAPING CHARGED

The charge of kidnaping in connection with the alleged murder of the Till boy was nolle prossed insofar as Tallahatchie County is concerned. This was done upon the motion of District Attorney Gerald Chatham.

The kidnaping of the boy occurred in LaFlore county whereas the body was found in the river near the town of Phillip in Tallahatchie county.

The defendants were turned over to LaFlore County officials for possible prosecution of the kidnaping charge that has been lodged against them.

Sheriff George Smith of LaFlore county said the kidnaping count will be taken to the Grand Jury the first week in November.

DEFENDANTS CONGRATULATED

The two defendants were all smiles as they received congratulations in the courtroom from men and women friends. Both men, who smoked cigarettes in the courtroom during the trial, lit up cigars after the verdict was announced.

For the benefit of the battery of photographers, Bryant and Milam kissed their wives who had been sitting with them while they were awaiting the verdict.

Bryant's wife had appeared as a witness and testified that young Till had insulted her when he came to the Bryant general store in Money, Miss., about 8 o'clock on the night of August 24 last.

Meanwhile, the greatest excitement prevailed in the small town of Sumner, population 700.

The courthouse itself was a scene of great commotion.

Not only was there great activity in the courtroom after the verdict but crowds of people streamed down to the first floor and stood around discussing the jury's decision.

REPORTERS 'MONITORED'

Reporters giving their stories to their offices were surrounded by townsfolk listening to what was being dictated.

On the first floor a refreshment stand was doing a land-office business in the sale of sandwiches and soft drinks.

Attorney John W. Whitten gave the jury the defense theory of the Till case. He said one defense theory is that the body found in the Tallahatchie river was not that of young Till.

He attacked people who inject the racial angle into the case. He said:

"There are people who want to destroy the way of Southern white people and Southern Negro people. They'll go to any odds to widen the gap between Southern people.

"WOULD PUT BODY IN RIVER"

"They would not be above putting a body in the river in the hopes it might be identified as Emmett Till."

He appealed to the jury to render a verdict of acquittal.

Special prosecutor Robert B. Smith made the final plea for the State. He told the jury that "we live in troubled times in Mississippi.

He went on to say, however, that "we have a Constitution" and everybody, white or black, has a right to liberty and pursuit of happiness.

PROSECUTION HITS "OUTSIDERS"

He rapped "outside influences" who have come into this locality and "stirred up things."

He declared:

"If you turn Bryant and Milam loose you will be serving their purposes. If you turn them loose they will have material for fund raising for the next 15 years."

Rapping at the defense theory that the body found in the river was not that of the Till boy, the prosecutor shouted:

"If it was not the Till boy, where is he now? I tell you, gentlemen of the jury, that body was positively identified and the body was that of young Till."

WITNESSES IN NEGRO'S SLAYING



MRS. MAMIE BRADLEY (top, right), of Chicago, tells a jury in Sumner, Miss., that a police picture shown her was that of her son, Emmett L. Till, 14, kidnap-slaying victim. She also identified a ring found on the body. Mrs. Carolyn Bryant (top, left) testified that "a Negro man" caught her around the waist and asked her for a date. Mrs. Bryant gave her testimony with the jury absent. They were among the final witnesses before the state and defense rested their cases in the trial of Roy Bryant, 24, and his half-brother, J. W. Milam, 36. At bottom, District Attorney Gerald Chatham talks with Willie Reed (center) and Walter Billingsley, surprise witnesses for the state.

Amid Rumors

Mississippi Defendants Facing Kidnap Charges

GREENWOOD, Miss., Sept. 29 (AP)—Two white men accused of kidnaping a 14-year old Chicago Negro boy seek freedom on bonds tomorrow amid rumors that the boy, Emmett Louis Till, is alive.

The rumors were not confirmed. Mrs. Mamie Bradley, the lad's mother, today called them "a cruel hoax."

Around-the-clock police protection was provided in Chicago for two witnesses in last week's sensational murder trial of 24-year old Roy Bryant and his 36-year old half-brother, John W. Milam.

Seek Bond

A country jury at nearby Sumner last Friday found Bryant and Milam innocent of murdering the vacationing Chicago boy. They still face a kidnaping charge and will seek release on bond at tomorrow's hearing.

Contradictory identification of a body found in the Tallahatchie River heavily influenced the jury in freeing the men, and set off widespread speculation about Till's whereabouts if he is alive.

Mrs. Bradley said in Detroit, "I am willing to have my boy's body exhumed from the vault for a thorough examination if that would dispel these wild rumors.

"If he were alive, I would know. I don't know how this could come up."

Sheriff H. C. Strider said in nearby Charleston he had heard the rumors Till was alive in Detroit but "as far as knowing anything definite, I don't know it.

"I definitely believe he's somewhere, but I don't know where, the 270-pound sheriff added.

Strider and two other defense witnesses testified the body found in the river had been dead at least eight days. If they were correct, the body could not have been Till's. He was missing only three days when the body was found.

The boy's mother and Mose Wright, his sharecropper uncle, identified the body positively as Till's. The lad was abducted from Wright's cottonfield shack near Money in the early hours of Aug. 31.

Officers testified at the murder trial that Milam and Bryant admitted taking the boy but said they released him unharmed when they found he was not the Negro who allegedly whistled at and molested Mrs. Bryant at Bryant's country store.

Police Guard

Chicago police working in three shifts guarded Mrs. Bradley's home and the house where Willie Reed, a state witness against Milam and Bryant, is living.

Reed may be a witness again if Milam and Bryant are tried on the kidnaping charge.

In the murder trial, Reed placed Milam with Till some three hours after Milam and Bryant said they released the lad.

The 14-year old farm hand was whisked to Chicago by friends immediately after the trial. He told a reporter today:

"It will be a long time before I go back to Mississippi. Some day I had planned to come here (Chicago) although I was happy, you might say, back home."

Placed In Jail

He worked on a plantation run by Milam's brother, Leslie Milam, where Till allegedly was beaten.

Police said they had merely received orders to stand guard at the two homes.

Milam and Bryant were placed in jail in Greenwood after the jury in nearby Sumner freed them on the murder charge. Their attorneys and prosecutors failed to agree on bond so the men remain in jail until tomorrow's hearing.

Leflore County Judge Charles A. Pollard said the hearing will begin at 10 a.m. Such hearings usually are brief. The judge will set bond when the hearing is over.

The alleged kidnaping took place in Leflore County. The body was found in neighboring Tallahatchie County so the murder trial was held in Sumner.

8838

SLAIN BOY'S UNCLE IDENTIFIES 2 MEN WHO ABDUCTED YOUTH

Daily World 9/22

New Witnesses Promised All Possible Protection By State

Atlanta Ga. Thurs. 9-22-55

-By JAMES J. KILGALLEN

SUMNER, Miss. — (INS) — Reverend Mose Wright told a tense, hot southern courtroom Wednesday his accusing story of the night white men kidnapped and slew his 14-year-old great nephew.

The 64-year-old Negro sharecropper, a wiry man with graying hair and jutting chin, stood up in the packed Sumner Courtroom and pointed a lean finger at Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam.

"There they are," he said.

The two white men, half-brothers, are accused of kidnaping and murdering Emmett L. Till, a Chicago Negro boy for "wolf-whistling" at Bryant's pretty wife.

Bryant, an ex-Paratrooper, showed no emotion. But Milam sucked on his cigaret and shifted nervously in his seat.

Rev. Wright was the first witness of the trial which has captured the interest of much of the nation.

His identification of Bryant and Milam brought silence to the courtroom, except for the whirl of big fans stirring the hot air.

NEW WITNESSES

District Attorney Gerald Chatham has told the court he may produce more state witnesses than he originally listed. The defense has stipulated it will call at least six witnesses.

Later Chatham revealed outside the courthouse that new evidence has been discovered that "definitely strengthens the state's case."

The District Attorney was presumably referring to his action in increasing the number of prosecution witnesses.

The state has issued subpoenas for five additional Negro witnesses and promised them "all possible protection" if they would testify at the trial.

It was reported that Dr. T. R. M. Howard, a militant leader and a physician for the all-Negro community of Mound Bayou, Miss., said the five could present testimony which would "split this case wide open."

NO CONFLICT ON SITE

Chatham declined to reveal the nature of the testimony the new witness might give. However, he dispelled rumors that the "new evidence" showed the scene of the murder was in a county other than Tallahatchie.

Court was adjourned until 9 a. m. today. Meanwhile, Gov. Hugh White of Mississippi and State Attorney General J. P. Coleman sent several trained investigators into the case to examine the "new evidence."

Hearing the case are 12 white, male jurors, and an alternate white juror. Ten of them are farmers, one a drag-liu operator, one an insurance man and one a carpenter.

The defense, on cross examination, questioned Wright about his identification of the men, and his identification of the body hauled from the waters of the Tallahatchie River several days later.

OTHER WITNESSES

Several other routine witnesses took the stand during the morning session after Wright. But the man, wearing a white shirt and yellow suspenders, a tenant farmer residing near Money, Miss., and an ordained minister in the Holiness Church, overshadowed the session.

He said from the witness chair, facing white and Negro spectators, that he is married and has 12 children. He said the men showed up around 2 a. m. August 25 at his small house.

After he was excused from the stand, the state called Chester A. Miller, a Negro undertaker of Greenwood, Miss., as its second witness.

Miller testified he was summoned to a point near the town of Phillip on the Tallahatchie River on August 28 to handle a body which had been dragged from the water.

IDENTIFIES RING

He identified a ring with the initials "L. T. on it as having been found on the victim's finger.

The witness said the victim had been shot and that he saw other wounds on the body. Barbed wire, he said, had been wound around the victim's neck.

C. A. Strickland, a police identification officer, took the stand next and identified pictures which he had taken of the body.

Sheriff George Smith of LaFlore County testified he went to the defendant Bryant's General Store on Sunday, August 28, to talk with him. This was shortly before Bryant was arrested.

"He told me he went to Mose Wright's house to get the boy," the sheriff said. "He said he took him back to his store, that he wasn't the right one, and that he turned him loose. Bryant said he spent most of the rest of the night playing cards."

Robert Hodges a towsleheaired 17-year-old fisherman, told the jury of finding the Till boy's body floating in the river near the shore about a mile from Hodges' home in Phillip, Miss.

The Defense

Chicago Ill.

SUMNER, Miss. — Bespectacled Atty. J. J. Breland, of Sumner, Miss., defense attorney in the Emmett L. Till case appears to be a rather amiable person. Now 45 years of age, and of medium height, he has been "practicing law for 40 years."

He expressed himself quite freely when questioned by a Defender reporter.

Defender

Atty. Breland appeared to be proud of the fact he had lined up four of "the best lawyers in Sumner," to assist him.

9-24-55

They are Attys. J. W. Kellum, of Tutwiler, with offices at Sumner; C. Sidney Carlton of Sumner; Harvey Henderson of Sumner; and John W. Whitten, jr. of Sumner, who is a cousin of Congressman Jamie Whitten.

PRAISES PROSECUTION

Breland volunteered praise of the prosecution in the case Attys. Gerald Chatham and R. B. Smith III.

Defender

"I know them both," he said, "they are outstanding men."

The defense lawyer attended prep school at Hattiesburg, Miss. He received his BS degree from the University of Mississippi, and his LL.B. Degree from the University of Mississippi.

P. 2

He cites as one of his outstanding achievements in criminal law the defense of M. P. Studivant, of Glendoraw, Miss., who was involved in a slaying in 1941.

When asked whether he expected the prosecution to ask for the maximum sentence in the Till case he said: "yes I do."

He pointed out that no 'Nigras' are qualified to serve on the jury, since there are no Negro registered voters in the county.

Breland has been married 37 years, but the couple have no children. He is a veteran of World War II, in which he served as a first lieutenant.

8-Man Team Covers Till Case Trial

Defender

Sat. 9-24-55

P. 1

SUMNER, Miss. — Defender readers are getting coverage of the trial that opened here Monday by one of the largest teams of newsmen and photographers ever assembled by the paper for one event.

Chicago Ill.

Heading up a Defender staff of five men, including three photographers is L. Alex Wilson, who distinguished himself as a correspondent during the Korean war. Their coverage is being augmented by three International News Service writers whose stories will also be carried by Defender publications.

Defender

Working under the direction of Wilson will be Moses Newson, of Memphis, who was one of the first reporters on the scene when the kidnapping of Emmett Till became known.

P. 2

Defender photographers on the scene are J. J. Mason of Clarksdale and Ernest Withers and R. A. Coleman of Memphis.

INS writers are James Kilgallen from New York City; Paul Burton of New Orleans and Bob Denley, of Atlanta.

KEY WITNESSES IN 'WOLF WHISTLE' SLAYING TRIAL





MOSE WRIGHT, 64, and his son, Maurice, 12, are shown (right) on the Money, Miss., farm from which Wright's nephew, Emmett Till, 14, was allegedly kidnaped and later beaten, shot and dumped into a creek. They will be key witnesses at the trial in Sumner of Roy Bryant, 24, and his half-brother, J. W. Milam, 36, who are charged with the crime. At left, barefooted and smoking a cheroot, is another witness, Auntie Lou Martin, one of Till's relatives, who says she is 112 years old. The boy was slain after allegedly "wolf whistling" at Mrs. Bryant while leaving a store. *(International Soundphoto)*

Paper says slain Negro's father was no war hero

Negro Birmingham Ala.
Daily World P. 1
Atlanta, Ga.
Thurs. 9-22-55

JACKSON, Miss., Oct. 15—(AP)—The Jackson Daily News, denying published reports that the father of Emmett Till died a hero's death in World War II, said he was executed for murder and rape in occupied Italy.

Army officials confirmed that a Pvt. Louis Till of the 177th Port Company was executed in Italy, July 2, 1945, at the age of 24, for rape and murder, but said the records did not indicate whether he was the father of the slain Chicago Negro.

Army records show that Pvt. Till was hanged by Army authorities.

His pre-induction address was listed as Argo, Ill.

THE DAILY NEWS reported its findings Friday in a copyrighted story which took issue with Life magazine's claim that the slain boy's "soldier-father . . . was killed in France fighting for the American proposition that all men are equal."

The paper said the Life editorial was "typical of the unfounded statements" in some Northern newspapers.

Young Till was kidnaped and slain for allegedly whistling at a white woman while vacationing with his uncle, Mose Wright, at a farm near Money, Miss.

TWO WHITE MEN, Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam, were found innocent of the murder but still face kidnaping charges. The murder trial jury said the state failed to prove that the battered, bloated body pulled from the Tallahatchie River last Aug. 28 was Till's.

William Henry Huff, attorney for Till's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley, said in Chicago reports of the father's execution "may be true, but it has no bearing on the case pending."

Mrs. Bradley, also in Chicago, said the War Department informed her that the cause of her husband's death was "willful misconduct," but claimed she never learned any details, despite letters "to the commanding officer, to the chaplain and to the late President Roosevelt."

Roosevelt died April 12, 1945, nearly three months before. Mrs. Bradley said her husband died July 2, 1945, the same date as the Louis Till who was executed in Italy. She has since remarried.

8839

Hennings Promises Hearing To Mrs. Bradley

WASHINGTON — Sen. Thomas Hennings, chairman of the subcommittee on Constitutional Rights, announced that he would give Mrs. Mamie Bradley an opportunity to tell the story of the kidnapping and lynching of her son, Emmett Till in Mississippi.

The announcement came through a member of his staff, after Elder Smallwood Williams had informed the 9,000 people attending a mass meeting at Uline Arena Sunday that vain attempts had been made to have U. S. Congressmen hear Mrs. Bradley's story.

In his address Sunday, the Rev. Mr. Williams read a letter he had written to Senator Hennings asking that Mrs. Bradley be heard. He also read the reply which stated that the other two members of the subcommittee on Constitutional Rights were out of the city and Hennings was on his way to Missouri.

After making the reply public, the minister added:

To Repeat Efforts

"Mr. Senator, we are serving notice that we are not going to let you alone until you call them and they are heard."

Elder Williams said that if the senator was interested in doing a job, "why has he not called Mrs. Bradley and others?"

The Constitutional Rights committee offered an apology to the Bibleway pastor for the committee's failure to see the relatives of the murdered Chicago youth.

They contended that the Elder's letter had arrived too late and the senator had already made other plans for the week-end.

Elder Williams revealed that the committee had stated in a subsequent telephone conversation to him, that the case of Emmett Till might not come within the perview of the committee. Many a person has been killed and his alleged slayer has been exonerated by a jury. This could not be called a violation of Constitutional rights.

The Rev. Williams reminded the spokesman that witnesses had been hidden in this case and families have found it necesary to flee from their home because they dared to tell the truth in the trial. These are some of the things that should be investigated and they are certainly a violation of the constitutional rights of individuals.

Glad To Talk To Her

A spokesman from the committee said the Missouri senator would be glad to talk to Mrs. Bradley about the situation. When the reporter asked if she meant that the senator would talk to her individually, or if he would permit her to talk to the committee in a public hearing, she said she was not sure which he meant.

She couldn't say whether the committee would be interested because she was not sure whether this case would come under their jurisdiction. This seem to be a case of civil rights, she said, when the committee deals only with Constitutional rights.

Elder Williams tried to get an audience with Maxwell Rabb, chief counsel to President Eisenhower and secretary to the cabinet, while Mrs. Bradley was in the city.

Rabb replied that he was leaving town on Monday morning for Maryland and New York where he was scheduled to deliver an address in the evening. Therefore, the family of the murdered lad was not able to tell their story at the White House while in Washington.

Mother of Till To Tell Story To Congressmen

WASHINGTON. — (ANP) — Senator Thomas Hennings, chairman of the sub-committee on Constitutional Rights, announced this week that he would give Mrs. Mamie Bradley an opportunity to tell the story of the kidnapping and lynching of her son, Emmett Till, in Mississippi.

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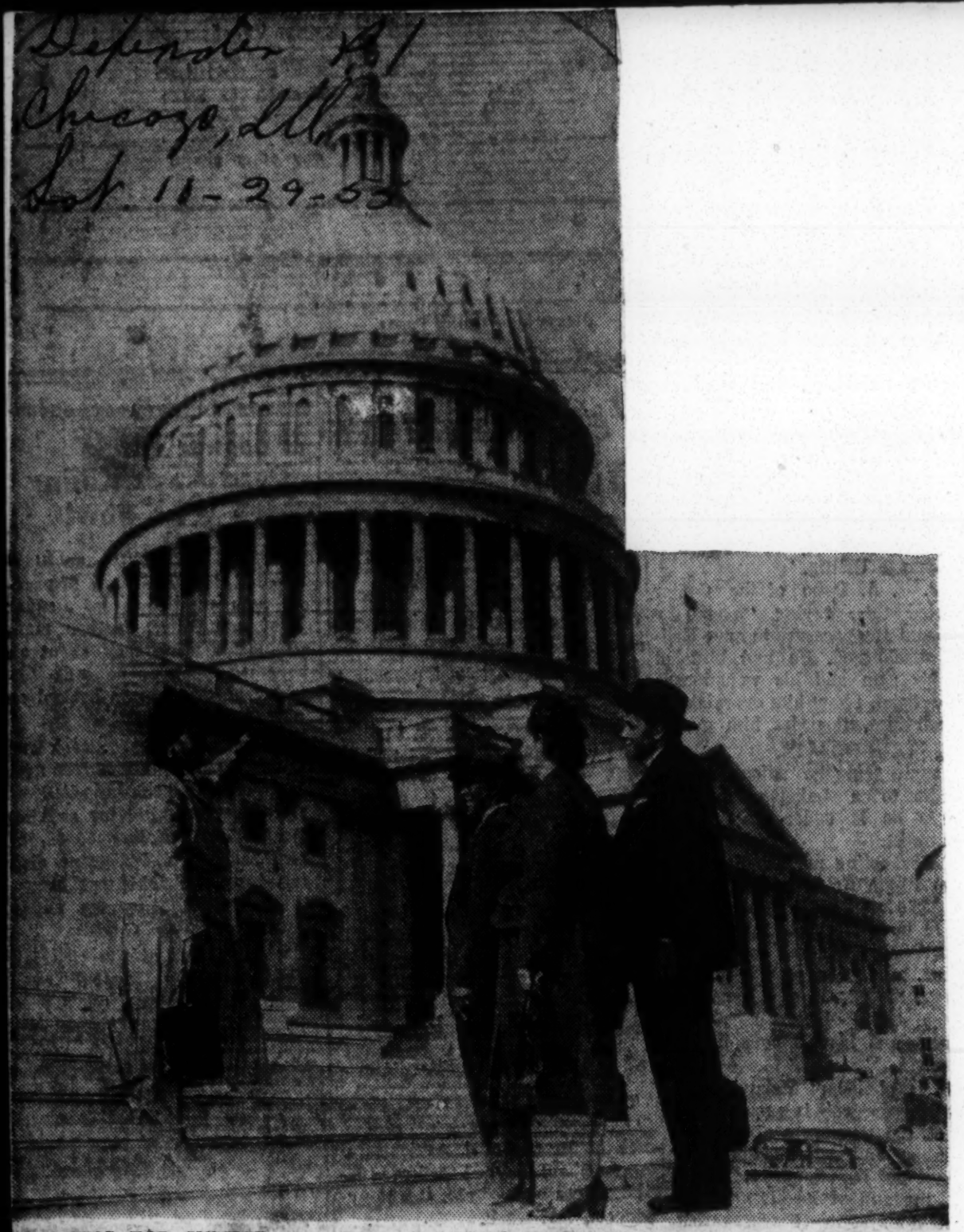
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Mrs. Bradley Speaks for NAACP Here



Mrs. Mamie E. Bradley, Chicago, Ill., addressed a mass meeting Sunday for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People at Willkie House. (Photo Courtesy of Des Moines Register).

Defender #1
Chicago, Ill.
Sep. 11-29-55



LOOKING FOR JUSTICE — "Maybe I can get help here," says Mrs. Mamie Bradley of Chicago (left) as she points out Capitol dome to Rayfield Mooty. Mrs. Moses Wright and Bishop Isaiah Roberts, pastor of Roberts Temple church. Group was in Washington to participate in "Spiritual Mobilization" drive to end racial strife in Mississippi and elsewhere. Mother of slain Emmett Till asked for hearing before Senate sub-committee on civil rights but was not successful in getting one.

8840

Conflicts and Tensions Strong As Till Case Nears Second Jury

Journal and Constitution p. 16-A
Atlanta Ga.,

By JOHN N. POPHAM
The New York Times News Service
Special to Atlanta Journal-Constitution

GREENWOOD, Miss., Oct. 29. A LeFlore County grand jury will convene in this county seat town on Nov. 7 to study evidence in the sensational kidnap-slaying of Emmett Louis Till, 14-year-old Chicago Negro.

This will be a second spotlight-ing of the law enforcement as-pect of the case that has become a raging public controversy at-tracting national and some inter-national interest.

Basically, the case concerns the allegation that young Till was taken from his grand-uncle's cab-in home and slain by two white men, Roy Bryant and his half-brother, J. W. Milam, because the youth allegedly "wolf-whis-tled" and made an indecent pro-posal to Bryant's wife, Carolyn, while they were alone in a coun-try store.

Lynch. 10-30-55

AT THIS STAGE the public controversy as it has developed in Mississippi appears to have engendered far more confusion than clarity. In particular, the touchy race relations phase has overshadowed all other consider-ations and there is widespread feeling that "attitudes" concern-ing the case generally have wors-ened in the past month.

There are many in the Green-wood and Leflore County area who now have doubt that an in-dictment is certain to be voted by the grand jury that will meet a week from Monday specifically to consider the kidnaping phase of the case. If an indictment is returned, they say, the odds, based on the present "climate" of local opinion, would seem to be to favor an acquittal.

• • •

A MONTH AGO the same peo-ple were strongly of the opinion that a kidnaping indictment and conviction would be relatively easy to obtain in Leflore County and that even a murder count would have been given a stiff scrutiny by a trial jury.

There is no single factor re-sponsible for this shifting of "at-titudes," but a multiplicity of de-velopments involving emotional impacts, race relation tensions, sensitivity to "outside criticism," and heated debate over matters not entirely relevant to the facts in the Till case have unquestion-ably had a profound effect here in recent weeks.

What was charged by the prose-cution to be young Till's body was found in the Tallahatchie River on Aug. 31, three days after he was taken from the home of his grand uncle, Moses Wright, and seven days after the alleged incident took place in the country store owned and operated by the Bryants at Money, a cross-roads community in LeFlore County, about 10 miles from Greenwood.

• • •

THE BODY was recovered from the Tallahatchie County side of the river and therefore the grand jury of that county took jurisdiction of the case and voted an indictment with murder and kidnaping counts against Bryant and Milam.

At that time there was wide-spread evidence of outraged in-dignation over the alleged crime. Mississippi officials were out-spoken in demanding swift re-tributive justice. A special prose-cutor was assigned to handle the case.

Within a few days, however, the sharpness of this indignation was blunted in some quarters. Others, including spokesmen for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, termed the case a "lynching."

• • •

FOR SOME TIME the NAACP, largely because of its role in suc-cessfully prosecuting the law suits that resulted in the Supreme Court's historic decision of May 17, 1954, outlawing public school racial segregation laws, has been roundly scored by public speakers in this state.

In scores of meetings, official and otherwise, the Supreme Court judges have been denounced as political puppets with a predilec-tion for Communist ideologies and the NAACP has been pic-tured as a Communist-dominated outfit that has as its goal "the mongrelization of the races."

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IN ADDITION there has been formed the Citizens Council, which is designed to preserve separation of the races by com-bating what its supporters term the alliance of the NAACP and the Federal Government. The council now claims to have 60,000 members in this state.

There have been charges that Citizens Council members have used economic reprisals against Negroes accused of following the NAACP line. It is also charged that where council member-ship is strong, Negro voting ac-tivities have decreased consider-ably. In Holmes County, for in-stance, several white persons have been the target of condem-nation by council members be-cause they were allegedly "soft" in their race relations views.

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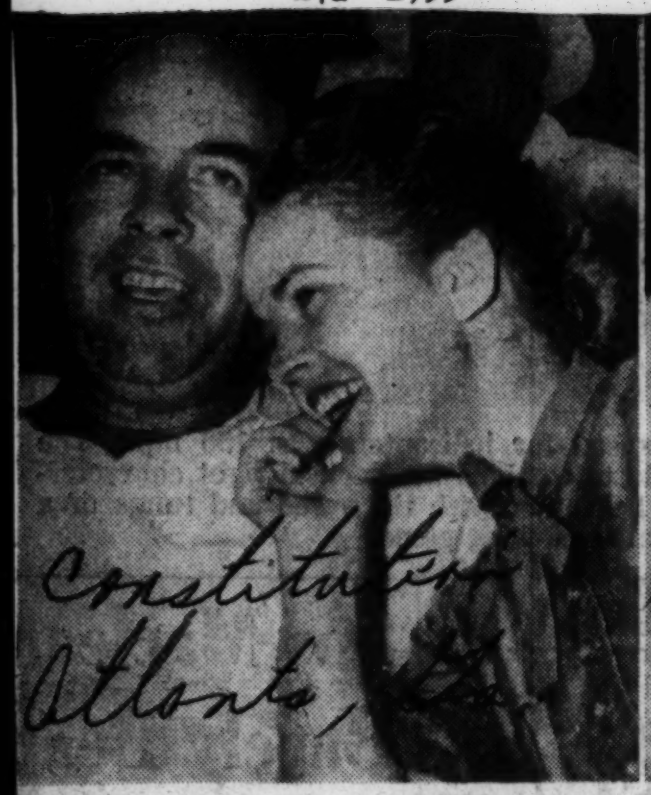
BECAUSE OF the manner in which all of these conflicts and tensions became involved in the "climate" of the Till case, there was virtually uniform feeling that a murder conviction was very unlikely to be voted.



Weekly P.3 New Orleans, La. Sat. 10-1-55

WHERE IT STARTED—Mrs. Roy Bryant of Money, Miss., whose charge that a 14-year-old Negro youth "wolf-whistled" her led to his death, is obviously unmoved, as she goes about her chores at her husband's store, followed by her two sons. It was here at the Sharkey Community store where the trouble started, which resulted in murder, and the trial of Mrs. Bryant's husband and half-brother for the crime. The woman later asserted that young Emmett Till also attempted to assault her during his fatal visit to the Bryant store. She didn't mention the "assault" until after the start of the trial. (Newspress Photo).

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Associated Press Wirephoto

DEFENDANTS AND WIVES SHOW RELIEF AFTER ACQUITTAL

J. W. Milams All Smiles at Left, Roy Bryants Kiss at Right

Brothers Acquitted in 65 Minutes At 'Wolf Whistle' Slaying Trial

By JOHN N. POPHAM

The New York Times News Service

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 23—Two Mississippi white men accused of the kidnap-murder of Emmett Louis Till, 14-year-old Chicago Negro, were acquitted today by a jury of 12 white neighbors after one hour and five minutes of deliberation. Roy Bryant, 24-year-old country storekeeper, and his half-brother, J. W. Milam, 36, both born and reared in Tallahatchie County, where the trial was held, greeted the verdict by embracing their wives, lighting up cigars and posing for photographs while relatives and friends extended congratulations.

The trial concerned only the murder count of the indictment which was voted on Sept. 6 by a Tallahatchie County Grand Jury after Emmett's body was found within the county's jurisdiction. Emmett allegedly was seized forcibly from his grand uncle's home in adjoining Leflore County four days after the youth reportedly "insulted" Bryant's wife in the family store.

Immediately after the jury verdict was filed with the clerk of the court, Circuit Judge Curtis M. Swango granted the prosecution's motion to dismiss the kidnaping count on the ground that evidence in the trial clearly established that Leflore County had proper jurisdiction in the kidnaping case.

FACE KIDNAP COUNT

Robert B. Smith III, special prosecutor for the murder trial, said Bryant and Milam, who have been in custody without bail on the murder charge, would be turned over to Leflore County law enforcement officers to face a sworn affidavit on a kidnaping charge before a justice of the peace in Greenwood.

Smith said that in all likelihood the justice of the peace would set a bond under which the two men could be held to await possible indictment on the kidnaping evidence by the Leflore Grand Jury, which meets in November.

The jury received the case for deliberation at 2:35 p.m. local time. At 3:40 p.m. it filed out of the jury room and stood in the jury box. At 3:43 p.m., the foreman, J. A. Shaw Jr., a farmer of Webb, two miles from Sumner, announced that the decision was "not guilty."

NEGROES IN COURT

The courtroom's 230 seats were occupied, with about 40 Negroes sitting in the costomarily segregated section at the rear, and with some 10 or 12 Negro press representatives at a table near the railing. About 15 people were standing at the front entrance of the courtroom and about 25 persons along the walls.

There was no commotion or excitement when the verdict was announced. Two persons at the door turned and ran down the steps to spread the message to those standing on the sidewalk and the courthouse lawn.

The first break in the calm came as photographers began to converge on the defendants and request that they pose for pictures. The defendants and their wives, sitting on chairs just inside the railing, were completely composed and smiled faintly as they embraced at the request of cameramen. A few minutes later both men lighted cigars and stood up for more pictures.

Shaw, who was chosen by the rest of the jurors as their spokesman, told reporters the jury had taken three ballots. He said the first vote was nine for acquittal with three not voting, the second was 10 for acquittal with two not voting and the third was unanimous for acquittal.

Shaw said the principal item that led to the verdict was "the belief that there had been no identification of the dead body as that of Emmett Till." Defense attorneys had centered their attack on the contention that the dead body was not identified beyond a reasonable doubt as Till.

The jurors, Shaw said, had studied the photograph of the dead body that was made by a police photographer a day after it was taken from the Tallahatchie River. The person had been bludgeoned and shot in the head. Shaw said the jury "felt the body was too badly decomposed to be identified."

Asked what the jury thought of the testimony of Emmett's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley, who said the body was definitely that of her son and who also identified a ring taken from the body as belonging to her son, Shaw replied, "If she had tried a little harder, she might have got out a tear."

During the testimony on the witness stand, Mrs. Bradley, when shown the photograph of the dead body, removed her glasses and wiped at her eyes.

The jury had been instructed it could return any of four verdicts. These were guilty as charged, which carries a mandatory sentence of death in the gas chamber; guilty with recommendation for life imprisonment; guilty with recommendation for life imprisonment; guilty with a stipulation that the jury cannot agree on fixing the penalty, in which case the law requires the judge to impose life imprisonment, and acquittal.

For practical purposes, therefore, the jury was faced with three decisions, death in the gas chamber, life imprisonment or acquittal. Mississippi statutes do not provide for degrees of murder with varying punishment. There is a manslaughter statute with penalty ranging up to 20 years but it applies to a killing in the heat of passion and without premeditation and therefore was not cited in the jury instructions.

Because of the race relations factors involved in this case it was widely predicted that a verdict carrying either a death or a life imprisonment sentence was most unlikely to be returned by the jury. This was regarded by many as the major factor underlying the jury's action.

5-HOUR ARGUMENTS

The jury returned its verdict after two and one-half hours of listening to oratory by five lawyers, who underscored dramatically the area conflicts and tensions that had permeated the courtroom atmosphere and held the spectators enthralled since the trial started last Monday.

The race relations aspect, somewhat blunted during the presentation of evidence because of court rulings and swift legal maneuvers by the prosecution, was injected strongly into the summations to the jury.

The racial subject was emphasized when John C. Whitten, last of three lawyers pleading for the defendants, posed to the jurors the possibility that "outsiders" desirous of stirring up racial conflict in the South had "arranged" to have a dead body identified as that of Emmett Till.

Whitten said that "rabble rousers" had brought "notoriety" and

national newspaper coverage to Sumner. He said he was "sure every last Anglo-Saxon one of you has the courage to free these men in the face of that pressure."

PROSECUTOR ANSWERS

Smith, who pressed the state's case with vigor, opened his summation by declaring he wanted to answer specifically the words of Whitten.

The special prosecutor said, "We can only keep our way of life when we support the constitutional guarantee of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for every citizen regardless of race, and Emmett Till was entitled to his life."

"Once we start taking away the life and liberty of any person, we cannot complain what happens to us," Smith said. "The best way to help disruptive outside influences would be to turn Bryant and Milam loose."

Smith held there was no way to discount the finding of Emmett's ring on the dead body as "powerful proof" in support of identification. He said Emmett's mother should be viewed as the key identification witness because "the last thing in God's creation a mother wants is to believe that her son is dead."

"NO JUSTIFICATION"

Gerald Chatham, circuit district attorney and associate counsel for the prosecution, made a shouting, table-thumping statement that "there was no justification for killing Emmett, the most he needed was a whipping if he had done anything wrong."

C. Sidney Carlton, defense attorney, concentrated on the evidence, hammering away at the point that several people who handled the dead body testified they thought it had been too decomposed to be identified. J. W. Kellum, another defense lawyer, said if the jurors voted the defendants guilty "your forefathers will turn over in their graves."

The 12 jurors, all white men, included nine farmers, a carpenter, an insurance man and a dragline operator. They were chosen from Tallahatchie county at large a smembers of a special panel.

UPROAR IN STATE

The slaying of Emmett Till caused an uproar throughout Mississippi and brought strong criticism of the state's white supremacy practices from other sections of the country. Tempers have been running high over the "outside" criticisms and nearly everyone in Tallahatchie has seen or heard of letters sent to local officials with vile language.

Emmett Till allegedly was kidnaped Aug. 28 and his body was found in the river Aug. 31. Mrs. Bryant testified yesterday that a Negro with a "Northern brogue" had embraced her and "wolf-whistled" at her on Aug. 24 while they were alone in her husband's store. Her story was told in the absence of the jury, and later Judge Swango ruled that as a matter of law it was not admissible before the jury.

The State of Mississippi Still Carries the Burden

Constitution
Atlanta Ga.

In Sumner, Miss., a 14-year-old Negro boy afflicted physically (and some suggested mentally) by polio, was killed.

Reportedly his lynching, or murder (a matter of semantics), resulted from his "wolf whistle" or "insulting remarks" directed at the wife of a community storekeeper.

Mon. 9-26-55

Apparently there was no immediate reaction. Some three days afterwards he was taken from the home of his uncle and killed.

2-4

The two men charged with this killing now have been acquitted.

The sheriff testified they had admitted abducting the boy. But there were no witnesses to the death.

The prosecution conducted a vigorous case. It was obvious Mississippi was stirred. The lynching, or murder, was brutal. A boy had been killed for an act for which a boy of another color would have been whipped or reprimanded. The state's prosecutors valiantly and honestly sought a conviction.

The jury, summoned by due process, declared the defendants not guilty. That's that. But some person, or persons, are guilty.

The burden remains with Mississippi and with the conscience of the people of the county or counties involved.

Someone killed a 14-year-old boy. He would not have been killed had it not been for his color.

What will Mississippi and Sumner do about it so that the Communists of Russia and of China may not say that in our country the law means one thing for one person and another thing for another.

This crime, unhappily, is known the world around. Unfortunately the verdict will not conclude the case.

Someone, or some persons, are guilty. That's an uncomfortable fact.

The burden still rests on Mississippi.

Mississippi Planning to Press For Kidnap Conviction of Pair

Atlanta Journal & Constitution
Sun 9-25-55

Bryant, Milam Face Possible Death Penalty in Abduction Case

P. 2-A

By JOHN N. POPHAM

New York Times News Service, Special to The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 24—The state of Mississippi will try to obtain a kidnaping conviction against two white men acquitted by a jury Friday of the charge that they murdered the yictim, Emmett Louis Till, 14-year-old Chicago Negro.

Atlanta Ga.

Stanny Sanders, district attorney for the Fourth Judicial Circuit which includes Le Flore County, the scene of the alleged kidnapping said Saturday that he would present to a grand jury substantially the same evidence that was given at the murder trial.

He said that he would call witnesses as soon as the Le Flore County Grand Jury convenes for it's fall session on the first Monday in November. He said that an indictment would be sought, but that it would be up to the grand jurors to decide under which of two criminal statutes the true bill might be returned.

* * *

MISSISSIPPI has one statute, section 2237, which makes kidnaping a crime punishable by a penitentiary term not exceeding 10 years. There is a second statute, section 2238, which makes kidnaping a capital offense and also makes a special reference to forcible seizure of a child under ten years of age.

Both statutes are worded to include the kidnaping of "any person." The second statute was adopted after the widely publicized kidnapping of the infant son of Charles A. Lindbergh. The second statute stipulates that it shall not be held to repeal, morify or amend any other criminal law of the state.

Section 2238, however, calls for punishment upon conviction of death in the gas chamber or life imprisonment if the jury so recommends. It also provides that if the jury fails to agree on fixing the penalty at death or life imprisonment, the court can impose a penitentiary term of one to 30 years.

The jury in the murder trial was instructed that it could return verdicts calling for death or life imprisonment and for acquittal. Because of the race relations theme in the case, many persons in this area felt that a strong factor in the jury's decision was the penalty aspect.

* * *

THE TWO accused men, Roy Bryant, 24, a country store keeper and his half-brother, J. W. Milam, 36, were taken into custory by Sheriff George Smith of LeFlore County at the end of Friday's trial and lodged in the LeFlore County jail on an affidavit charging them with the kidnaping crime.

The kidnaping of young Till took place on August 28, at the home of his grand uncle, Moses Wright, in Money, a farming community in LeFlore County. Three days later, the youth's body, bludgeoned and shot in the head, was found in a river in adjoining Tallahatchie County.

Consequently, the Tallahatchie Grand Jury took jurisdiction of the crime and on Sept. 6, voted an indictment with murder and kidnaping counts. The trial in Sumner, county seat town of Tallahatchie County, was only on the murder count.

Immediately after the jury announced its verdict, Circut Judge Curtis M. Swango granted the prosecution's motion to dismiss the kidnaping count on the ground that the trial evidence established that LeFlore County had arrested on a kidnaping affidavit filed in LeFlore County. It was on the basis of that affidavit that they were lodged in the LeFlore County jail to await grand jury action in November.

* * *

IN ADVANCE of grand jury action, it was said, they can apply for release under bond before LeFlore County Judge Charles Pollard, in whose court the kidnaping affidavit was filed originally. It was reported Saturday that the accused men were trying to arrange for attorneys to apply for release under bond.

At the murder trial, Sheriff Smith testified that Bryant told him that he had taken young Till from his grand uncle's home but that he later had released the boy. Deputy Sheriff John Edd Cathrom testified that Milan told him a similar story.

It was charged that Milam and Bryant kidnaped and murdered Emmett Till because the youth allegedly had made an "indecent proposal" and "wolf whistled" at Bryant's 21-year-old wife, Carolyn, while she was alone in her husband's store on Aug. 24.

Disclosure of the crime resulted in widespread expressions of outrage throughout Mississippi and strong criticisms of the state's white supremacy practices from other sections of the country. In turn, many segments of Mississippi voiced anger at what they termed "outside meddling," which developed a climate of "r'esentment" in Tallahatchie County.

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Plead innocent to murder charge—J. W. Milam, left, 36, and his half-brother, Roy Bryant, 24, conferred with one of their lawyers, J. W. Kellum, right, just before pleading innocent yesterday at Sumner, Miss. Indictments charged they kidnaped and killed Emmett Till, 14-year-old Negro from Chicago, who "made some remarks" and wolf-whistled at Bryant's pretty wife. (AP wirephoto.)

Pair pleads innocent in Mississippi kidnap-murder

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 7—(AP)—Two white men who pleaded innocent to the kidnap-murder of a 14-year-old Chicago Negro were expected to go on trial in the next three weeks.

The men, Roy Bryant, 24, and his half-brother, J. W. Milam, 35, were indicted by an all-white Grand Jury yesterday and entered their innocent pleas shortly afterwards.

They were charged with kidnaping and murdering Emmett Louis Till after Till allegedly whistled at Bryant's attractive wife in their country store in the Money community.

Circuit Judge Curtis Swango Jr. said he would set the trial date tomorrow and Sheriff H. C. Strider said "we expect to try them in this term of court." The three-week term began Monday.

IN CHICAGO, NAACP Attorney William Huff said he would file a $100,000 damage suit against Bryant and Milam "unless the men are given death in the gas chamber."

Till's body was found in the Tallahatchie River last Wednesday, three days after he was taken from an uncle's home at Money shortly after the whistling incident. He had been shot and the weighted body dumped into the river. Till was visiting the uncle for a two-week vacation.

Bryant and Milam admitted taking the boy, but said they freed him unharmed.

In Chicago, meanwhile, Till's aunt, Mrs. Elizabeth Wright, said three white men spirited the boy from her Mississippi home.

However, Sheriff George Smith said earlier in Greenwood, Miss., he was convinced only two men were involved in the abduction.

Negro Leader Hails Officers For Handling Of Till Slaying

The president of the National Negro Baptist Convention said here yesterday that Mississippi law enforcement officers are to be commended for their handling of the Emmett L. Till case.

Dr. Joseph Jackson of Chicago called the slaying of Till, a 14-year-old Chicago Negro, "worse than a lynching" but said the case was handled well.

He said he plans to offer a "mild" resolution on the case before the convention which is being attended by more than 15,000 Negroes.

A trial date for two white men indicted on murder and kidnap counts in Till's death is scheduled to be set today in Sumner, Miss., by Circuit Judge C. M. Swango.

Want Early Trial

Judge Swango, who has been ill the past two days, said he plans to return to the bench this morning. Defense attorneys said they will seek an early trial.

Roy Bryant, 24-year-old storekeeper of Money, Miss., and J. W. Milam, 36, of Glendora, Miss., his step-brother, are in the Tallahatchie County Jail at Charleston, Miss., awaiting trial on the charges.

Till's body, weighted with a heavy cotton gin fan, was found Aug. 31 in the Tallahatchie River. He had been beaten on the head and shot.

The white men are accused of taking Till from the home of his uncle, Mose Wright, at Money the morning of Aug. 28. Officers said they contend they turned Till loose unharmed when they discovered he was not the Negro youth who "wolf whistled" and made "some remarks" to Bryant's wife.

Up To Advisors

Till's mother, Mamie Bradley of Chicago, indicated she will appear at the trial at the urging of Dist. Atty. Gerald Chatham of Hernando, Miss.

The mother said she is willing to testify if her legal advisors thing she should do so. William Henry Huff, her attorney, said he would approve the trip providing she received "adequate protection."

Mr. Chatham had said she would receive any reasonable protection "she may think she needs."

Till's mother also told newsmen she is "not bitter against the white people because you can't judge a whole race by one or two persons."

At his home in Hernando Thursday night, Mr. Chatham said he was happy to hear that Mrs. Bradley apparently will come to Mississippi for the trial.

In other developments, a Collins, Miss., weekly newspaper asked for introduction of a bill in Congress to make it a Federal offense to place a body on public exhibition for "the purpose of raising funds."

Jimmy Arrington, editor of the Collins News-Commercial, said the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People caused the body of young Till to be left on display for five days in order to raise funds for the organization.

"Human decency demands such a law and civilized people are entitled to it," Mr. Arrington said in a request directed to Senator James O. Eastland, (D., Miss.).

MILWAUKEE, Sept. 8.—(AP)—Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Thursday called the slaying of 14-year-old Emmett Till a "new style of lynching." He said the Till death qualified as a lynching under the legal definition of the crime—a killing by two or three or more persons, involving race.

Bryant and his half-brother, J. W. Milam, for the murder of Emmett Till.

Bryant and Milam were indicted by a Tallahatchie County grand jury on both murder and kidnaping charges and are held in jail at nearby Charleston without bond pending trial.

Admitted Taking Him

They admitted taking Till from the home of his uncle near Greenwood Aug. 28, but told Leflore County Sheriff George Smith they let him go unharmed after finding he was not "the one" who whistled at Bryant's pretty young wife at the Bryant store.

The body was found shot and beaten three days after the kidnaping in the Tallahatchie River, the head weighted down by a heavy blower fan from a cotton gin.

Swango set the trial date after both defense and prosecuting attorneys said there was no reason to delay the trial. Dist. Atty. Gerald Chatham asked for "a few more days" to prepare his case.

Swango will draw the panel of male Tallahatchie County voters Monday, one week before the trial opens. Women are not allowed to serve on juries in Mississippi and Negroes only on rare occasions.

The defendants are expected to be tried on the murder indictments jointly. Conviction carries

Trial Is Set For Sept. 19

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 9 (UP) — Two white men, indicted for murder in the "wolf whistle" slaying of a 14-year-old Chicago Negro, will go on trial for their lives Sept. 19, it was announced today.

Circuit judge Curtis M. Swango said he would draw a special juror panel of 125 names for selection of a jury to try storekeeper Roy

Says William Faulkner

Slaying In Mississippi Is Threat To Survival of American Culture

Editor's note: A 15-year-old Negro boy, Emmett Till of Chicago, recently was killed in Mississippi. Police arrested two white men and charged them with the slaying. American novelist William Faulkner, now visiting Rome, considers the killing a threat to the survival of American culture. In the following dispatch, written exclusively for United Press, the Nobel Prize-winning author from Mississippi condemns those responsible for the abduction and slaying Aug. 28.

By WILLIAM FAULKNER.
Written for United Press.

ROME, Sept. 9 (UP)—When will we learn that if one county in Mississippi is to survive, it will be because all Mississippi survives? That if the state of Mississippi survives, it will be because all America survives? And if America is to survive, the whole white race must survive first?

Because, the whole white race is only one-fourth of the earth's population of white and brown and yellow and black. So, when will we learn that the white man can no longer afford, he simply does not dare, to commit acts which the other three-fourths of the human race can challenge him for, not because the acts are themselves criminal, but simply because the challengers and accusers of the acts are not white in pigment?

Not to speak of the other Aryan peoples who are already the Western world's enemies because of political ideologies. Have we, the white Americans who can commit or condone such acts, forgotten already how only 15 years ago, what only the Japanese—a mere 80 million inhabitants of an island already insolvent and bankrupt—did to us?

How then can we hope to survive the next Pearl Harbor, if there should be one, with not only all peoples who are not white, but all peoples with political ideologies different from ours arrayed against us—after we have taught them (as we are doing) that when we talk of freedom and liberty, we not only mean neither, we don't even mean security and justice and even the preservation of life for people whose pigmentation is not the same as ours?

And not just the black people in Boer South Africa, but the black people in America, too.

Because if we Americans are to survive, it will have to be because we choose and elect and defend to be first of all Americans to present to the world one homogeneous and unbroken front, whether of white Americans or black ones or purple or blue or green.

Perhaps we will find out now whether we are to survive or not. Perhaps the purpose of this sorry and tragic error committed in my native Mississippi by two white adults on an afflicted Negro child is to prove to us whether or not we deserve to survive.

Because if we in America have reached that point in our desperate culture when we must murder children, no matter for what reason or what color, we don't deserve to survive, and probably won't.

penalty of death by lethal gas unless the jury recommends mer-

In New York, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored people, which had termed the crime a lynching, said it would send an observer to the trial.

A Tupelo, Miss., Negro minister, meantime, said Till's slaying has spurred the fight against segregation in the state. The Rev. J. A. Parsons, attending a national Baptist convention in Chicago, said opinion had been divided among his people on the subject of desegregation. But the crime, he said, "did somethng to every-body."

"We are not going to be afraid any more," he said. "We are going to fight for what is right — as human beings — and we are going to be against this wrong."

White Editor Blasts Miss. In Till Case

JACKSON, Miss.—"Mississippi has betrayed its own sense of decency and its own cause of independence in the management of its affairs," Norman Bradley, editor of the Jackson, Miss., State-Times, said in an editorial in his newspaper.

He said the Emmett Till case did not end on "the solid ground of justice, but became a white-hot determination of Mississippians to conduct their affair as they pleased."

The editorial continued, "We showed the world, all right, that Mississippi does not bow to the dictates of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, but the NAACP is not the loser. Justice is the real loser and when that is true, Mississippi suffers."

The editor added, "the symbol was ill-chosen, the battle waged against the wrong foe, because it took the course of blind opposition to 'outside interference' rather than to an obvious injustice."

—BIGGEST and the BEST—

Sorry About Till Case, U. S. Says

WASHINGTON (ANP)—Deputy Attorney General William P. Rogers has condemned the administration of justice in the Till case, but asserts that the U. S. can do nothing about it.

Rogers said that the Justice Department has received more than 3,000 letters protesting the freeing of J. W. Milam and Roy Bryant in the kidnap-murder of Emmett Till.

"We just have no authority to step into a state if we think there is a failure in the administration of justice," he said.

8843

L. A.'s Till rally $6000 sent East

NEW YORK — The United Auto Workers, CIO, has contributed $5,000 to the Naacp, Roy Wilkins, executive secretary, announced here today; and $6,000 was received, representing funds collected at an Naacp Till rally in Los Angeles.

A letter signed by Walter P. Reuther, CIO president, accompanied the union's check.

Pointing to the Emmett Till lynching and "other violations of civil rights and civil liberties which have occurred in Mississippi in recent months," Reuther's letter said, "In the months ahead, in view of the present developments, our country will be faced with perhaps the most critical period in its history in the field of civil rights and civil liberties."

Reuther said the UAW-CIO is donating the $5,000 "with the conviction that it will, in a measure, assist the Naacp in its courageous and untiring efforts toward the achievement of an America in which the civil rights and civil liberties of every individual will be secure."

UAW-CIO executive board on Oct. 30 issued a statement calling for prompt enactment of legislation by Congress to provide for immediate intervention by the Justice Dept. in cases of civil rights violations.

The statement cited the recent murders of three Negroes in Mississippi as "crimes against democracy and humanity.



SCENES FROM DENVER TILL RALLY. — The top photo and the bottom panel show the enthusiastic audience of 1,500 persons who attended the Till rally Tuesday, Nov. 22 sponsored by the Denver Ministerial Alliance and the NAACP at New Hope Baptist church in Denver. The Rev. Moses Wright addressed an audience which showed its interest by making a contribution of about $1,000 to the NAACP.

Brothers Admitted Till Abduction, Sheriff Says

By JOHN N. POPHAM

The New York Times News Service

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 21—Moses Wright, 64-year-old Negro sharecropper, took the witness stand today and pointed out two Mississippi white men as the kidnapers of his slain nephew, 14-year-old Emmett Louis Till of Chicago.

In the dramatic setting of a Deep South courtroom packed with Negroes and whites occupying segregated sections, the elderly cotton farmer twice rose from the witness chair and singled out the defendants, Roy Bryant, 24, and his half brother, J. W. Milam, 36, with the words "there he is, that's the man."

Under vigorous cross examination, Wright stuck doggedly by his identification of the accused men, but defense counsel elicited a number of answers that were conflicting with respect to the conditions the witness described as existing at the time of the kidnaping.

Salient points developed in the questioning by defense counsel concerned Wright's testimony that he had never seen the two men before the alleged crime, that it took place in pre-dawn hours with only a flashlight penetrating the darkness of a country cabin and that the defendant Bryant was not at any time close to the flashlight's beam.

Later in the day, however, the prosecution won a hard-fought courtroom legal debate that permitted it to score by putting on the witness stand sheriff George Smith of Leflore County, who said Bryant had told him on the afternoon of the kidnaping that he had gone to Wright's house to "get the little Negro boy" but later had "released" the youth.

John Edd Cothran, a deputy sheriff of Leflore County, also told the court that when Milam was arrested as a suspect in the crime he gave Cothran a statement similar to the one Smith ascribed to Bryant.

Cothran said Milam told him "they took the Negro boy," from Wright's house but let him go later in the day.

While the state was presenting its case in the courtroom, staff aides of the prosecution attorneys were examining in private five "new witnesses" who were reported to have information that would "materially bolster" the state's case.

Robert B. Smith, special counsel assigned by Gov. Hugh White and Atty. Gen. J. P. Coleman to help prosecute the murder trial, said the witnesses were rounded up in the early morning hours and would be questioned throughout today.

There were unconfirmed reports that they were Negroes from neighboring Sunflower County believed to have information concerning the scene of the crime, which heretofore has not been specifically located.

PREPARED FOR BATTLE

It was evident from today's proceedings which marked the beginning of testimony by witnesses, that attorneys on both sides were prepared to wage a bitter courtroom battle.

The prosecution attorneys, led by Smith and Gerald Chatham, the circuit district attorney, pushed their case with vigor.

Circuit Judge Curtis M. Swango, regarded as one of Mississippi's most able jurists, continued to keep a firm rein on the proceedings.

Wright was the first witness called when the trial began its third session today.

Dressed in black trousers, white shirt, white suspenders and dark blue tie with light blue stripes, Wright settled in the witness chair and pulled nervously at long fingers which he alternately cupped to his mouth or waved in the air to illustrate his words.

"PREACHER, PREACHER"

Throughout his testimony, the witness was called "Uncle Mose" by the prosecution attorneys, and simply "Mose" by the defense lawyers. In turn, Wright answered the prosecution with "yes sir," and the defense examiners with "that's right, that's right."

With few preliminaries, Wright launched into the story of the kidnaping, which reportedly took place about 2 a.m., Aug. 28, a Sunday. He said he was sleeping with his wife, Elizabeth, in one room and that Emmett Till was sleeping in another room with Wright's son, Simeon, 10.

The witness said he was awakened by someone at the door shouting, "Preacher, Preacher." Wright is known as "Preacher" in the neighborhood of Money, a small [illegible]ming community in adjoining Leflore County, some three miles west of Wright's cabin home.

NO LIGHTS ON

Wright said he went to the door and a man's voice said, "I want to talk with you, I'm Mr. Bryant." He said he opened the door and a man entered with a pistol in his right hand and a flashlight in his left. Wright said he did not turn on the lights of his house and that it was dark at the time.

He said the man with the pistol and flashlight, subsequently identified by Wright as Milam, said, "I want that boy who dirty-talked at Money."

It has been alleged that Emmett Till "wolf-whistled" and made some "ugly remarks" to Bryant's 21-year-old wife, Carolyn, while she was alone on Aug. 25 in a grocery store her husband owns at Money.

Wright described how two men went with him to Till's bed while a third man remained on the cabin porch with his head "bent like he was hiding." Asked if the man with the bowed head was "a Negro," Wright said "he acted like he was a colored man."

Wright said the man with the flashlight directed Till to dress and accompany the intruder. He said that on the way out of the cabin, Mrs. Wright said, "We will pay you if you let the boy go," and that one of the men said, "You get back in that bed and I'll want to hear those springs."

Wright said the three men and the boy went outside to a nearby tree. He said he heard "what seems like a little voice, lighter than a man's," say something and then the group drove toward Money in a car.

Wright said he stood at a screen door for about 20 minutes but Emmett never returned. He said he took his car to get some gasoline and drove away from his home with his wife.

The witness said he next saw Emmett on Aug. 31, when the youth's body, with head bludgeon and shot, was recovered from a river in Tallahatchie County.

TAKEN TO RIVER SIDE

Wright said he was taken to the river side by a deputy sheriff of Leflore County and that he identified the body as that of his nephew. He said he was wearing a large silver ring which had belonged to Emmett's father, killed in World War II. Wright identified the ring in the courtroom.

The cross examination, conducted by C. Sidney Carlton, one of five defense attorneys, brought admission from Wright that on the night of the kidnaping one of the men said "I'm Bryant," but that this man had no distinguishing features in the darkness.

Wright also admitted he had only identified Milam as "a big bald-headed man." However, Wright at one point said, "I knew him that night, I could see it like I could see it now," adding that Milam had "moved that light all around in front of him."

Wright said it was too dark to see the automobile in the yard from the porch but insisted he could see it was an automobile when it drove off toward Money. He said he could not see it well enough to describe whether it was a truck or passenger-type car.

TILL TRIAL JURY SELECTION HELD

Defendants Present as Jurors Picked

By W. F. MINOR

(Times-Picayune Staff Correspondent)

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 19—The trial of two white Mississippi men for the murder of a Chicago school boy moved through a humid, listless first day here Monday with two members of the trial jury still to be selected.

Court recessed at 5 p. m. until Tuesday morning with 10 of the 12 jurors agreed upon by the prosecution and defense. The jury will determine the fate of the two men in the bi-racial slaying that has captured national interest. After the state had tendered a full 12-man jury at 5:26 p. m., defense attorneys, after a brief questioning period and conference, decided to remove two of the jurors.

Hasty completion of the jury is expected after the opening of court here at 9 a. m. Tuesday.

On trial in the gray brick old courthouse here are Roy Bryant, 21-year-old Money, Miss., storekeeper, and his half brother, J. W. Milam, 36.

'Ugly Remark' Made

The two had been indicted for the kidnap-murder of Emmett Louis Till, the Chicago schoolboy who allegedly "wolf whistled" or made "an ugly remark" to Bryant's attractive burnette wife, Carolyn, 21 while she was tending the store.

The two men face a maximum penalty of death in the state's new Lethal gas chamber if found guilty as charged.

In memory of state legal figures, no white man has ever been sent to his death in Mississippi for the murder of a Negro.

District attorney Gerald Chatham led the questioning of the jurors, assisted from time to time by special assistant attorney general Robert B. Smith II, Rip Smith III, Ripley and Tallahatchie county prosecuting attorney Hamilton Caldwell.

What may or may not prove significant in the trial, was the fact that the prosecution asked none of the prospecutive jurors if they believed in capital punishment, usually a standard question in murder prosecutions.

But special prosecutor Smith said that this did not mean that they had agreed not to push for the death sentence.

Assistant Named

Smith, a former FBI agent, was named by Gov. Hugh White and Attorney General J. P. Coleman to assist Chatham in the case. Chatham is retiring at the

end of his term in January because of his health.

Immediately when the questioning of prospective jurors shifted to the defense, attorney J. J. Breeland, Sumner, stressed to the jurors that the indictment of the two men was "merely an accusation," and that it was "no presumption of guilt."

He pointed out what will apparently be one of the key joints in the defense: That the state must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that "the body taken from the Tallahatchie river was the body of Emmett Till."

Breland also told the jurors that Bryant and Milam could "stand mute" in the trial because the burden of proof in the trial is upon the state.

This immediately was taken as a forecast that the two defendants will not be called to the stand to testify.

In statements to officers at their arrest, the men had admitted that they took Till from his uncle's house, but later released him unharmed.

Both pleaded innocent when arraigned on the murder charge.

Children Present

Bryant and Milam sat side by side with their attractive wives and bounced their young children on their knees while the trial was in progress.

Bryant is the father of two sons, one two years old and the other four. Milam has one boy a year and one-half old and another four.

The two men wore long-sleeved white shirts, open at the neck as they watched the proceedings with no more apparent interest than the listeners who packed the courtroom.

Five attorneys—all of the lawyers who practice in Sumner—are part of the defense. Besides Breland, they are J. W. Kellum, Sidney Carlton, J. W. Whitten, and Harvey Henderson.

As the temperature outside reached into the 90s and became even warmer inside, Judge Swango passed the word that coats could be removed. Later, after he had kept his own coat on throughout most of the day, he shed it like the rest.

Swango, who once presided over sessions of the Mississippi House of Representatives, kept the court moving with quiet dignity.

All White Jury

The trial jury will necessarily be an all-white one. No Negroes are qualified to vote in Tallahatchie county, although Negroes outnumber whites two to one. Being a qualified voter is one of the fundamental requirements of jury service.

Of the 10 jurors who were accepted Monday by both sides, practically all are farmers.

The 10 are: Ed Devaney, a retired carpenter; L. L. Price, an insurance agent; Howard Armstrong, farmer; J. A. Shaw Jr., farmer; Ray Tribble, farmer and merchant; Davis Newton, school teacher and farmer; Bishop Matthews, farmer; James Toole, carpenter, farmer; George Holland, farmer, and Travis Thomas, farmer.

All live within a radius of 20 miles of here, and mostly in the eastern side of the county.

Leniency Promised

Prosecutor In Till Case Points Out 'Legal' Flaws

By ART EVERETT

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 19 (AP) Two white men — accused of killing a wolf-whistling Negro boy— went on trial in a steamy Mississippi Delta courtroom today, their 2-year-old boys in their laps.

Flanking each man a few feet from the judge's bench was another slightly older son.

The thin walls of the youngsters, or their childish laughter, cut across the routine hum of court proceedings in the most sensational Delta trial in many years.

Accused Of Killing

Their fathers, Roy Bryant, 24-year-old cotton country grocery keeper; and his half brother, J. W. Milam, 36, are accused of the kidnap slaying of 14-year-old Emmett (Bo-Bo) Till, a South Side Chicago Negro boy. He was vacationing in Mississippi last month and was slain after he allegedly made offensive remarks and wolf-whistled at Bryant's attractive 21-year-old wife, Carolyn.

Both defendants have pleaded innocent.

Both Mrs. Bryant and 27-year-old Juanita Milam were in court with their husbands and the youngsters.

As the state and the defense went to work picking an all-white, all-male jury for the murder trial, Dist. Atty. Gerald Chatham emphasized he is not asking for the death penalty.

Said the prosecutor: "The state will not ask for the infliction of the death penalty since a substantial part of the state's evidence is circumstantial evidence."

Bryant, a handsome bushy-haired man, and Milam, taller, stockier and nearly bald, sat out tedious trial preliminaries across the street from the 45-year-old gray brick courthouse. They were in the custody of their lawyers and not guarded.

When Circuit Judge Curtis Swango Jr., banged the gavel for the formal beginning of jury picking, Bryant and Milam walked into the courtroom. Each carried his 2-year-old son and each had an older boy by the hand. Bryant's older boy is 3, Milam's 4.

Mississippians said it is not unusual for a defendant to bring in a small child. In many parts of the country it is unprecedented.

The two sets of little boys, each one a handsome little tyke, listened attentively at first to court routine. Eventually they grew restless, gurgling, laughing and occasionally crying. Bryant gave his younger boy candy mints to quiet him. Milam tried the same with chewing gum.

Staying In Money

When he was kidnaped last Aug. 28, young Till was staying with his great-uncle, 64-year-old Mose Wright, a Negro sharecropper in Money, Miss., about 30 miles from here.

Wright claims three white men pounded on his door and, over his protests, took away "the boy from Chicago who did the talk at Money."

Wright is scheduled as the state's star witness against the two defendants. He claims he can identify one of them as a member of the kidnap group. There are only two defendants and his story of a third man has never been explained.

Young Till reportedly went into the white-and-green-fronted Bryant grocery less than three miles from Wright's cotton field shack and insulted Mrs. Bryant. He climaxed his visit with a wolf-whistle at the slender, attractive brunette.

Body Found

Three days later on Aug. 31, a body identified by the state as Till's was taken out of the Tallahatchie river three miles from Money. The head was beaten and bore a bullet wound. The body was weighted down by a 100-pound cotton gin exhaust fan.

The defense has said it will make the state prove the body was Till's. It reportedly was decomposed.

Rarely, if ever, has a white man been executed in a Mississippi case involving a Negro slaying. And Chatham made it plain he is not asking the cotton farmers who make up the bulk of any jury here to shatter precedent.

As Chatham explained it, there are four possible verdicts:

If the defendants are found guilty as charged, it becomes mandatory on the court to send them to the Mississippi gas chamber. Chatham is not asking such a verdict.

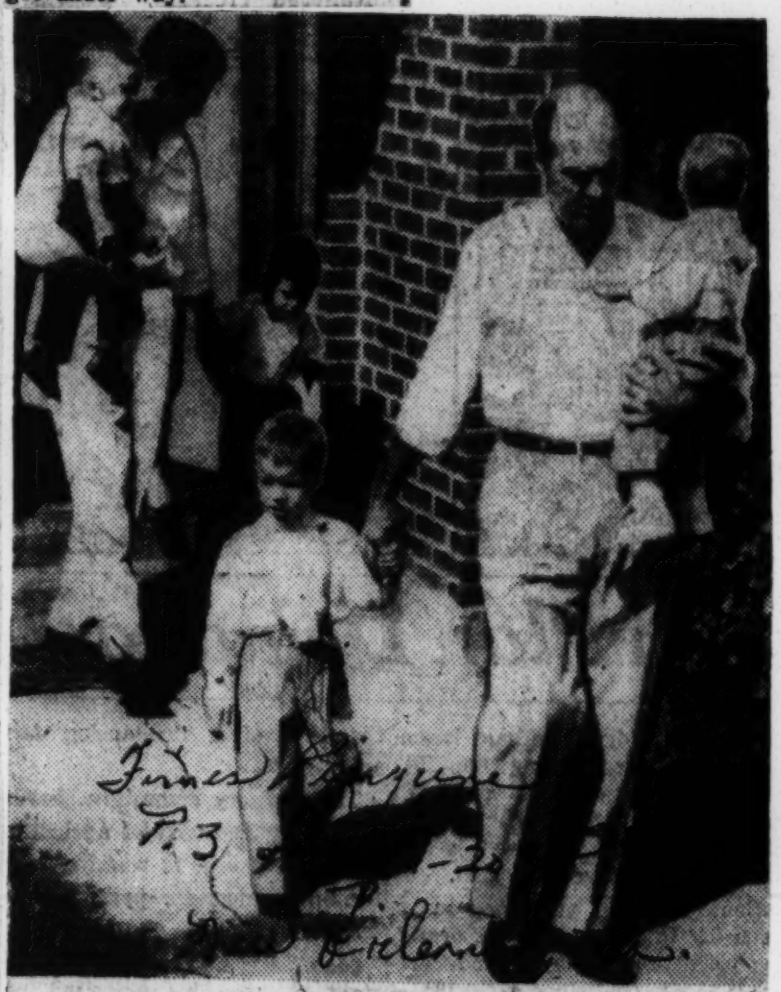
If the jury finds them guilty but disagrees as to the punishment, life imprisonment is the legal penalty.

Or the jury can find the pair guilty and specify in its verdict that the penalty shall be life.

Or, the jury can acquit the men.

Lawyers on both sides do not expect the trial to run beyond Wednesday.

The temperature mounted into the high 80s today as the mist lifted from the cotton fields and court got under way.



—WIREPHOTO by The Associated Press

J. W. MILAM (FRONT) AND ROY BRYANT
With their children at trial recess

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INDICTMENT IN MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi has a larger Negro population, according to the latest census, than any other state in the Union. The fact makes the state a particularly important testing ground in race relations. If there can be progress in those relations toward greater justice and greater democracy in Mississippi, then we [illegible] grateful.

On Sunday, Aug. 28, a 14-year-old Negro boy named Emitt Till was kidnapped after an incident at the little town of Money near Greenwood in which he had allegedly whistled at a white woman. Three days later his body was found in the Tallahatchie River. Yesterday a grand jury indicted two white men on charges of murder and kidnapping in connection with young Till's death. The men deny the crime and the trial, of course, is still to come.

The fact remains that the Tallahatchie County grand jury, made up of white men, took this step against other white men for a crime against a Negro. Over a long term of years Mississippi stood at the head of the shameful list of the states in which lynchings had occurred. There are few or no lynchings now in any state in an ordinary year. The prompt action of the grand jury in the Till case indicates that the people of contemporary Mississippi are against this form of murder as against other forms of murder.

Negro boy's mother to testify at trial

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 10—(AP)—The mother of a Chicago Negro boy will testify at the trial of two white Mississippi men charged with kidnaping and murdering him.

Roy Bryant, 24, and his half-brother, J. W. Milam, 35, will stand trial Sept. 19 on a charge of murdering 14-year-old Emmett Louis Till, who was visiting an uncle in Money, Miss.

William Henry Huff, attorney for the mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley, said Saturday in Chicago she definitely would be on hand for the trial.

Huff said the fact that Mrs. Bradley had been put under subpoena as a state witness was assurance of satisfactory protection.

Earlier, Huff said he had asked the U. S. Justice Department to assign FBI agents to protect her during the trial. Mrs. Bradley also had asked for two Chicago detectives as bodyguards.

Thousands Honor Slain Negro Boy

Chicago Funeral Tense but Orderly

CHICAGO, Sept. 3 (AP).—Thousands of Negroes jammed into a church in the Negro section today for the funeral of a fourteen-year-old boy who was slain in Mississippi after he whistled at a white woman.

The mourners, filing into the Roberts Temple of the Church of God in Christ in single file from lines that extended a block on either side of the church, were orderly. But there were loud screams as some of the mourners viewed the battered body of Emmett Louis Till. One woman fainted, then broke into loud sobs and screams.

Some screams also were heard as the 1,800 mourners who filled the church to capacity heard Bishop Louis H. Ford of the St. Paul Church of God in Christ intone:

"For as much as ye have done unto one of these, my little ones, ye have also done unto me."

Funeral Sermon

Bishop Ford based his sermon on the Gospel according to Matthew 18:6:

"But whosoever shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it is better for him that a millstone was hung about his neck and that he drowned in the depths of the sea."

At least 10,000 persons approached the pine casket before services for young Till began.

At the request of his mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley, thirty-three, the casket was left open. "Let the people see what they did to my boy," she sobbed when his body was returned from Mississippi late yesterday.

The boy's face showed evidence of a brutal beating before his murder. Almost all of his teeth were knocked out and the right side of his face was almost unrecognizable. There was a small bullet hole through the temple.

A minister stood on a raised platform behind the casket urging the mourners to contribute money to obtain legal aid in fighting this Southern atrocity."

Asks "Fighting Dollars"

The Rev. Cornelius Adams, assistant pastor of the Great Harvest Baptist Church, called for "fighting dollars" for Negro America. "We don't want our children to suffer violence," he said, "we don't want to see our people killed just because of a childish accident."

At least $700 had been collected before the services began, he said.

Upwards of 5,000 persons waited outside the church during the services waiting their turn to file past the coffin. Church officials and the boy's mother decided to postpone the burial until 10 a. m. Tuesday, to enable those who so desire to view the body.

Thousands of persons had jammed the area around the Reynar & Sons funeral home last night and today, forcing police to rope off the area for three blocks to preserve order. The crowd was not ugly, but the jam was so great that nearly every window in the funeral home was shattered. The chapel itself was left "a shambles," a spokesman for the home said.

Almost thirty police officers were on duty around the church today to preserve order.

Kidnaped and Slain

Emmett was kidnaped from the home of his uncle near Money, Miss., last Sunday.

Two white men, Roy Bryant, and his half-brother, J. W. Milan, are accused of slaying the boy because he allegedly "talked smart" and whistled at Bryant's wife. The men denied the killing.

Emmett's body was found late Wednesday in the Tallahatchie River near Greenwood, Miss.

Archibald Cary, a former alternate delegate to the United Nations, and State Sen. Marshall Korshak, representing Gov. William G. Stratton and Chicago Mayor Richard J. Daley, also spoke at the funeral services.

Sen. Korshak called the Till boy "a martyr in a fight for democracy and freedom . . . in a fight against evil men."

Mr. Carey, saying he had heard mutterings of revenge last night among mourners at the funeral home where the boy's body was on view, warned that two wrongs do not make a right. Revenge, he said, "is not for us to seek, and will not correct the evil that has happened."

"A mob in Chicago is no better than a mob in Mississippi," he cautioned.

As National Guard Patrols—

Grand Jury Recesses Without 'Wolf Whistle' Verdict

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 5 (U.P.)—A Mississippi Grand Jury recessed without a verdict tonight after it was asked to hand down murder indictments against two white half-brothers in the "wolf whistle" slaying of a 14-year-old Chicago Negro.

The grand jury said several witnesses would be called tomorrow in the case which has aroused nationwide attention.

The grand jury began deliberating the kidnap-slaying case of Emmett Louis Till while in a neighboring county battle-armed National Guardsmen patrolled the jail where the half-brother suspects Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam are being held.

A murder conviction in Mississippi without recommendation for mercy brings a mandatory death sentence.

District Atty. Gerald Chatham asked for the murder indictments. The jury heard several investigating officers' testimony in an all-day session then recessed without a decision.

Chatham did not name the witnesses that would be called tomorrow.

"I don't know whether we will get an indictment or not," a prosecuting official said, "but we are putting all the evidence we have before the jury. Both officers from Tallahatchie and Leflore Counties are testifying."

But sheriff H. C. Strider of Tallahatchie County said he had little murder evidence against Bryant and Milam, was not sure the body was Till's and accused the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People of plotting the incident.

Chatham called the conference of local authorities just prior to the grand jury meeting in view of Strider's announcement that he was investigating the case on the assumption that it was "plotted by the NAACP."

Strider's accusations that the body falsely was designated as that of the missing boy added two new controversies to a nationwide wave of indignation over what was taken to be a murder over a wolf whistle.

The NAACP vigorously denied it "plans murders" and the boy's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley, said after the body arrived in Chicago that she was "positive" it was that of her son.

While thousands of Negroes viewed the battered form over the week-end at a Chicago funeral home, Smith said he heard persisting rumors of carloads of Negroes with Illinois license plates were arriving in the state to stage some form of

Smith said he received two telephone calls yesterday afternoon, one a "tip" that "Negroes" would attempt an assault on the jail and another a "threat" of the same thing.

Smith said that although he doubted either of the anonymous calls indicated a genuine threat, he persuaded Gov. Hugh White to authorize use of the Guardsmen as a "precautionary measure."

"I didn't place too much credence in the warnings but I just wanted to make sure the prisoners were safe," Smith said.



ACCUSED—[illegible] W. Milam (left), 36, and his half-brother, Roy Bryant (center), 24, conferred with one of their lawyers, J. W. Kellum, at Sumner, Miss., before pleading innocent to indictments charging they kidnaped and killed Emmett Till, 14-year-old Chicago Negro, who "made some remarks" and wolf-whistled at Bryant's wife.

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Morning after abduction—

Witness says he saw Milam, Till enter barn; heard screams

Birmingham News
Thurs 9-22-55
P 39

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 22—(AP)—A teen-age Negro farmhand testified today that four white men in a pickup truck carried Emmett Till into a plantation barn a few hours after the lad was kidnaped.

He said he heard screams come from the barn and saw John W. Milam leave and re-enter the barn with a pistol on his hip.

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Milam and his 24-year-old half-brother, Roy Bryant, 36, are accused of murdering the 14-year-old Chicago Negro boy. The defense is expected to contend he wolf-whistled or made off-color remarks to Mrs. Bryant.

The Negro farmhand, 18-year-old Willie Reed, said the barn is on the Clint Sheridan plantation in nearby Sunflower County. Milam's brother, Leslie, is manager of the plantation.

REED WAS ONE of the last minute witnesses the state rounded up during the last two days. He was the first to support widespread speculation that something concerning the deed occurred in Sunflower County.

Reed said Till was carried to the barn after daylight the morning the boy was taken from his uncle's home in Money, a small community in LeFlore County. The body was pulled from the Tallahatchie River in adjoining Tallahatchie County.

Reed's testimony brought a third county—Sunflower—into the case.

Bryant and Milam are on trial in Tallahatchie County because Till's body was found in that county.

The plantation Reed mentioned is near Drew.

REED TESTIFIED that after he heard the screams, he went to a nearby country store and then returned home to get ready for Sunday School.

"On the way back, did you see or hear anything or anybody," he was asked by Robert B. Smith III, former FBI agent named as special prosecutor by Mississippi Atty. Gen. J. P. Coleman.

"No, sir," the Negro youth replied.

"Was the truck gone?"

"Yes, sir."

UNDER CROSS examination by the defense, Reed was asked:

"Was Mr. J. W. Milam driving the truck?"

"I don't know, sir," he answered.

"Did you see Mr. J. W. Milam in the truck?"

"No, sir," Reed replied.

"You wouldn't say Mr. Milam was inside the truck?"

"No, sir, I wouldn't."

The defense then launched a painstaking examination of distances involved in the truck incident.

Reed was vague as to how far he was from the barn where he said he saw Milam emerge on his way to the well. Reed said he had seen Milam come out of the barn, go to the well to get a drink, and return to the barn.

Finally, however, Reed agreed that he was at least 400 yards away.

After the defense finished, Smith asked a final question relative to Reed's identification of Milam on that particular scene.

"Did you see him before you heard the noise in the barn and the hollering," Smith asked.

"After I heard it," Reed answered.

REED TOOK the witness stand after Mrs. Mamie Bradley, the slain boy's mother, said she positively identified the body sent to Chicago for burial as her son.

The state called Mrs. Bradley as its second witness today to bolster identification of the body as being Till's. The identification is a major point in the state's case.

Lawyers showed Mrs. Till a ring taken from the body after it came from the Tallahatchie River Aug. 31. She identified it as her son's ring.

The silver signet ring is vital in the state's attempt to prove the body in the river was young Till's.

AS THE TRIAL entered its fourth day in the Tallahatchie County courthouse, Dist. Atty. Stanny Sanders in adjoining Sunflower County, said he was investigating a story which indicated young Till was killed on a plantation near Drew, Miss.

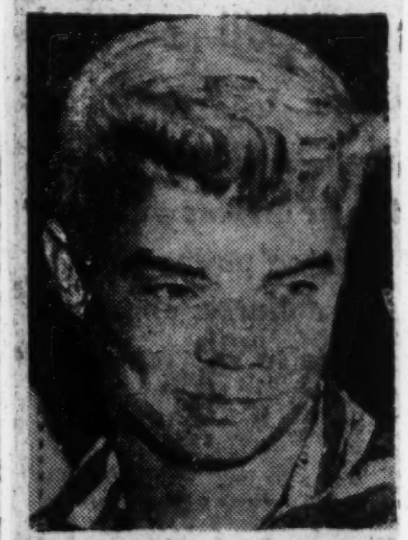
This presented the possibility the trial is being held in a county in which the killing did not take place.

Three witnesses for the state yesterday identified Bryant and Milam.

After defense objections, Sheriff George Smith of adjoining LeFlore County, where the boy was kidnaped, testified 24-year-old Bryant admitted taking Till from his uncle's home during the night, but said he released him unharmed.

DEPUTY SHERIFF John Ed Cothran followed with testimony the 36-year-old Milam also admitted taking the boy Aug. 28, and also insisted he was released unharmed.

Smith and his deputy said Bryant and Milam each claimed they released Till unharmed. The half



Found body — Robert Hodges, 17, testified yesterday in court that he found a body in the Tallahatchie River Aug. 31. Mose Wright, Negro farmer, said the body was that of his nephew, Emmett Till, 14, of Chicago. (AP wirephoto.)

brothers are accused of kidnaping the Negro lad and murdering him because he allegedly whistled or made off-color remarks to Mrs. Bryant.

Mose Wright, the boy's sharecropper uncle, identified the balding Milam as one of two men who came to Wright's cottonfield shack to get Till.

Then the 64-year-old Negro said Bryant was the second man.

THE COURTROOM IN the old brick courthouse was crowded again yesterday, but virtually everyone was sitting.

Rep. Charles Diggs (D., Mich.) returned for the second day to hear the opening testimony. The Negro congressman said he is an observer at the trial.

EARLIER SANDERS quoted Dr. T. R. M. Howard, a physician in the all-Negro town of Mound Bayou, about 20 miles west of here, as saying he could produce witnesses who could testify that Till probably was slain near Drew in a plantation shed. Drew is about 22 miles northwest of Money.

According to the Negro physician, the Sunflower County district attorney said, the informants told him they saw four white men, Till and two other Negroes arrive at the shed in a pickup truck on Aug. 28.

After a series of screams from the shed, the informants continued, the truck drove away. The rear compartment was covered and only the white men could be seen, they added.

Kidnaping aspect—

Second round yet to come in Till case

Birmingham News
Sun 9-25-55

BY ARTHUR EVERETT—Associated Press writer

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 24—The state of Mississippi apparently has not yet closed out its account with a 14-year-old Negro, Emmett Louis Till.

Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam, the white half-brothers, who were acquitted yesterday of Till's slaying, still face kidnaping charges in the August disappearance of the South Side Chicago boy.

Bryant and Milam were accused of taking Till from the cottonfield shack of his uncle Aug. 28. The state's pre-trial contention was the vacationing Chicago boy came into the Bryant's country store in Money, Miss., and whistled at pretty 21-year-old Mrs. Roy Bryant.

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The state held this as the motive, in accusing Bryant and Milam of the kidnap-murder.

The defense contended it was more than a wolf whistle that confronted Mrs. Bryant in her Aug. 24 encounter alone in the store with a Negro.

Testimony disallowed

MRS. BRYANT testified Thursday that a Negro man grabbed her by the hand and by the waist. She quoted him as saying:

"How about a date, baby? . . . What's the matter, baby? . . . Con't you take it? . . . You needn't be afraid of me."

Then, she continued, the Negro made indecent remarks keyed to the thesis he had "been with white women before." The wolf whistle followed all this.

Mrs. Bryant's testimony, however, played no part in the case. Circuit Judge Curtis Swango Jr., ruled it inadmissible because it occurred four days before the crime and in his opinion was not proven to be related directly to it.

Judge commended

JUDGE SWANGO allowed the testimony on the record in the jury's absence as a guide in any appeals court that might review his decision. Since the jury did not hear her, there was no reason for the state to cross-examine Mrs. Bryant.

The suppression from the jury of Mrs. Bryant's story left the state with little in the way of motive. The jury was left with no particular reason why the two defendants would want to kidnap and kill Till.

After the verdict, Negro press correspondents — there were a handful of them at a separate press table—signed a memorandum in which they told Judge Swango:

"We . . . wish to commend you for the distinguished, the astute manner in which you presided under trying conditions, at this trial. . . . The sense of fairness and decency was evident in your court."

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Circumstantial evidence

SWANGO, a darker, handsome man of 47, has been on the bench four years after a career as a Mississippi legislator. He is urbane and a confident interpreter of the law. His decisions on points of law during the trial invariably were unhesitant.

The jury complimented Dist. Atty. Gerald Chatham for his conduct of the case, although it denied him a conviction.

Chatham said before the testimony began:

"A substantial part of the state's case is circumstantial."

Circumstantial evidence, in this case, meant no death weapon, no direct evidence of how the body in the river met death, no witnesses, no confession of murder and a very weak suggestion of motive.

As for the defense, there were no histrionics during testimony, no fireworks. The state offered no criticism during the trial of the defense presentation, beyond normal objections of its approach to the law.

Next chapter

BRYANT AND MILAM are now in the LeFlore County Jail in Greenwood, where the next action in the case will take place.

LeFlore County Sheriff George Smith said no [illegible] been set

...a preliminary ... on the kidnapping charge ... said the men probably ... held without bond until ... hearing.

The LeFlore County Grand Jury will study the case during its November session.

Till's mother to attend New York protest meeting

CHICAGO, Sept. 24 (AP)—Mrs. Mamie Bradley, mother of slain 14-year-old Emmett Louis Till, said today she will attend a protest meeting Sunday in New York City.

Mrs. Bradley, who had just returned from the trial scene, will be accompanied by young Till's cousin, Rayfield Mooty, who at times has been spokesman for the family in Chicago.

Mooty told a newsman that a "mass rally" is planned in New York City Sunday to, as he phrased it, "protest this lynching."

He said the meeting may call for "federal intervention" in the case of the Till boy.

The meeting is being sponsored by the New York division of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, with the cooperation of the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People.

Acquitted of murder—

Till trial defendants face kidnap counts

Birmingham News 8-9-22-55

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 24—(AP)—Half-Brothers Roy Bryant and John Milam remained in jail today after the jury found them innocent of the murder of Emmet Till, a 14-year-old Chicago Negro.

When the murder trial ended in Sumner yesterday, the two white storekeepers were put in jail in Greenwood, in a neighboring county, to face charges of kidnaping.

They were tried for Till's murder in Tallahatchie County, because of a body found there, but will answer the kidnap count in LeFlore County, where Till was abducted from the farm of his uncle, Mose Wright.

Birmingham

JURY FOREMAN J. A. Shaw said identification of the body was the deciding factor in the one hour and seven minute deliberation that resulted in an innocent verdict on the third ballot.

"The verdict is as shameful as it is shocking," said the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People in a statement from its New York headquarters. "The jurors who returned it deserve a medal from the Kremlin for meritorious service in communism's war against democracy."

Bryant and Milam spent the night in the LeFlore County Jail in Greenwood when their attorneys differed with state officers over the amount of bond needed for their release under the kidnap charges.

BOTH MEN accepted the verdict calmly. The quiet announcement came as an anti-climax to the oratory of summing-up arguments earlier yesterday.

Shaw first simply said "not guilty," but Circuit Judge Curtis Swango Jr., who won praise from the NAACP for his handling of the trial, sent him back to try again in proper legal language.

Mrs. Bryant, mother of two boys, who testified a Negro man molested her on Aug. 24, said with a relieved smile: "I'm very happy. I feel a lot better than I did yesterday on the witness stand."

Before the trial, officers said the 21-year-old woman was the object of Till's wolf whistle.

The defense concentrated on raising doubts about the identification of the body.

A sheriff, a doctor and an undertaker testified the body they saw was in advanced state of decomposition and may have been dead anywhere from eight to 25 days. The time element was important here. Only three days elapsed from the time Till was taken out into the Delta darkness and a teen-aged fisherman found the body.

Birmingham

DIST. ATTY. Gerald Chatham had no quarrel with the verdict.

"The right of trial by jury," he said, "is a sacred guarantee of the United States Constitution. I accept it and abide by it."

At the all-Negro town of Mound Bayou, Miss., Mrs. Bradley said she left before the jury came in—"I was expecting an acquittal and I didn't want to be there when it happened."

Dist. Atty. Stanny Sanders of LeFlore County said he would seek a kidnap indictment at the November session of the Grand Jury.

The men were indicted for kidnaping by a Tallahatchie County Grand Jury, but Judge Swango dropped the charge at the request of Chatham when the neighboring county took jurisdiction.

TWO OFFICERS corroborated Wright's testimony that Bryant and Milam abducted Till from the sharecropper shack near the little Delta town of Money where Bryant runs a general store. The officers said the men admitted it in pre-trial questioning.

The storekeepers did not testify in their defense, but before the trial they claimed to have released Till unharmed because Mrs. Bryant said he was not the Negro who grabbed her around the waist and made an indecent proposal.

The state built its case around eye witnesses, like the 64-year-old Wright, to the pre-dawn abduction and around the testimony of a 17-year-old Negro boy who said he heard "licks and hollering" coming from a barn owned by Milam's brother in Sunflower County.

Shaw said the jury ignored the boy's testimony and was unimpressed with the appearance of Mrs. Mamie Bradley, Till's widowed mother, who came down from Chicago and tearfully insisted the body was her son's.

"There was a reasonable doubt," said the jury foreman about the identification of the body.



Defense conference—J. W. Milam (second from left) and his half-brother, Roy Bryant (second from right), are shown conferring with their attorney, J. J. Breland (right) after adjournment of their murder trial for the day yesterday in Sumner, Miss. At left is Raymond Bryant, twin brother of Roy. (AP wirephoto.)



JUST BEFORE THE VERDICT—J. W. Milam (left) and Roy Bryant (right) are shown with their wives in the courtroom at Sumner, Miss., just before the jury acquitted them of murder charges yesterday. (AP Wirephoto.)

8847

Protest Meetings Continue

Will Mamie, NAACP Kiss, Make Up?

Courier
Sat. 11-19-55
Pittsburgh, Pa.
Tours
pp. 2

CHICAGO—While the nation waited to see whether or not Mrs. Mamie Bradley, mother of lynch victim Emmett Till, and the NAACP would patch up their differences, protest meetings against Mississippi terrorism continued to be held on schedule.

Having advised Mrs. Bradley that the NAACP would be unable to honor her demands for a blanket sum of $5,000, for speaking appearances on the Pacific Coast, Roy Wilkins, NAACP executive secretary arranged for the Rev. Moses Wright, grand-uncle of the slain boy, to serve in Mrs. Bradley's stead.

As of Sunday, the Rev. Mr. Wright had appeared at Seattle, Portland and San Francisco. Remaining dates, beginning Monday, Nov. 15, include bookings at Los Angeles, Riverside, San Diego, California, Phoenix, Ariz.; Las Vegas, Nev., and at Fresno, Calif.

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ACCOMPANYING the Rev. Mr. Wright, a witness in both trials of the suspects, was Mrs. Ruby Hurley, NAACP southeast regional secretary, who was also present at both trials.

In the meanwhile, Mrs. Bradley found herself confronted with other problems. Her legal counsel of record, Atty. William H. Huff, chairman of the legal redress committee, Chicago NAACP branch, Nov. 9, asked to be relieved as her attorney.

Attorney Huff allegedly suggested that Mrs. Bradley secure other counsel to represent her in civil suits which should follow in the Till slaying. Regarding the suit, naming suspects J. D. Milam and Roy Bryant, white Mississippians, as defendants, Mrs. Bryant said, "I don't know."

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SHE SAID she had no money with which to file civil complaints and asserted, also, that no lawyer contacted has agreed to risk a trip to Mississippi for formal filing.

If she is not reinstated by the NAACP, Mrs. Bradley intimated that she will return to her work at the U. S. Air Force Procurement District, Jan. 1, 1956.

Upon the announcement by Mr. Wilkins, to the effect that, "NAACP does not handle such matters on a commercial basis," it was the opinion of observers that Mrs. Bradley had been poorly counseled by short-sighted advisers.

Her "sudden" demand for a $5,000 guarantee or a small sum plus one-third of the proceeds, plus all expenses, led to substitution of the Rev. Mr. Wright. Whether or not NAACP officials will accept her change of heart and speed her to the Pacific area was not ascertained.

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IN THEIR maiden effort in Seattle, Tuesday night, Nov. 8, at the Olympia Auditorium, both Mrs. Hurley, as principal speaker, and the Rev. Mr. Wright gave eye-witness accounts of the trials that led to successive acquittals for the two white men.

It was pointed out that Mrs. Bradley is on leave from her Air Force post, following her visit to NAACP headquarters, early in October, during which she reportedly asked for NAACP sponsorship of her appearances.

A belated note in the infamous Till incident, late last week, was a request, accredited to Illinois Gov. William G. Stratton, in which U. S. Attorney General Brownell was asked to formalize a Federal investigation of the handling of the case.

Report Due On Money In Till Case

Courier
Sat. 11-19-55
Pittsburgh, Pa.
p. 2

NEW YORK—Spotlighting the running feud between Mrs. Mamie Bradley and the NAACP's Roy Wilkins is the query concerning how many people have attended various Till mass meetings throughout the country . . . how much money has been raised . . . who received the money . . . and what is being done with it!

The NAACP is even now preparing a detailed statement for eventual release. This statement will deal with the number of speaking engagements under the direction of the national office; the various local offices. A strict accounting of this money will be made.

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Dr. T. R. M. Howard, militant Mississippi leader, has disclosed to The Courier that he has participated in speaking engagements in Los Angeles, Hollywood, Gary, Ind.; Baltimore, Md.; Pittsburgh, and one or two other places. He estimates that he has spoken to approximately thirty thousand people, and that around $30,000 has been collected.

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Mrs. Bradley's engagements have been under NAACP and "other type" sponsorship, while the Rev. Mose Wright has also been used as a speaker.

It is conservatively estimated that more than 250,000 people have heard the principals speak.

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There is no question as to the NAACP's position. Mrs. Bradley was told in front how the money raised would be used. She agreed to the terms. She was granted a "leave of absence" from her job . . . which pays around $3,900 a year . . . until Jan. 1.

She told the NAACP she didn't want to capitalize on her son's death.

It is generally agreed that she has been the victim of bad advice.

Moses Wright Replaces Till's Mother On NAACP Tour

Courier
Houston Defender
Sat. 11-19-55
Pittsburgh, Pa.
p. 1

NEW YORK — Following failure of Mrs Mamie Bradley, mother of Emmett Till, to undertake a tour of West Coast cities in accordance with terms agreed upon with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Roy Wilkins, NAACP executive secretary, announced termination of NAACP sponsorship of any future meetings for her and substitution of Moses Wright for the far west tour.

Mrs Bradley was scheduled to leave Chicago on Nov. 7 for a series of 11 NAACP-sponsored meetings in Washington, Oregon, California, Arizona, Nevada, Utah and Colorado. However, on that day, she informed the NAACP, through Mrs Anna Crockett, her personal representative, that she would not make the tour unless given a flat fee of $5,000 plus all expenses or a lesser guarantee plus expenses and one-third of all funds collected at the meetings.

of the NAACP in the West and the news that a Mississippi white jury had refused to indict the two white men accused of kidnaping of her son.

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CANCELLATION OF the tour, made by Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the NAACP, was "a misunderstanding." Mrs. Bradley said. She added:

"I want to maintain friendly relations with the NAACP. I am for peace at any price. The quicker I can get back to a normal way of life the longer I can live.

"I have financial worries. I've been ripping and running and I am still in a numb state. The loss of my son has left me that way; I am ready for a hospital."

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MR. WILKINS cancelled the tour and substituted Mose Wright, uncle of the Till boy, as the speaker for the West Coast NAACP meetings Tuesday.

He will be accompanied by Mrs. Ruby Hurley, Southeast Regional secretary.

Mr. Wilkins said that Frank Williams, NAACP regional director on the West Coast, had offered Mrs. Bradley $100 per meeting plus all expenses for 12 meetings—a total of $1,200. "She wouldn't even have to buy a newspaper," Mr. Wilkins said.

The terms of the agreement also provided for her to be accompanied by her father at NAACP expense.

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THESE TERMS, Mr. Wilkins said, had been approved by Mrs. Bradley but on Monday when the tour was to begin, a Mrs. Crockett, identifying herself as Mrs. Bradley's secretary, called

Ready For Hospita

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.
Sat. 11-19-55

"It looks like everything caved in at one time. I am ready for the hospital."

That is the way Mrs. Mamie Bradley, mother of Emmett L. Till, 14-year-old Chicago boy who was kidnaped and murdered in Mississippi, described her distressed feelings Thursday.

Her reactions followed cancellation of her 12-appearance tour

Mr. Williams and said she (Mrs. Bradley) would have to have $5,000 to make the trip.

Efforts to talk personally to Mrs. Bradley failed, and subsequently the NAACP, which had widely advertised the meetings in 12 different cities, canceled her appearances.

MR. WRIGHT left Chicago for a meeting in Seattle, Washington Tuesday.

Mrs. Bradley insists that the whole incident was "a misunderstanding" and said she stood ready to do her bit to help the NAACP."

Mr. Wilkins told her that she "would not look very well to the American public, going around making money from your son's death."

MEANWHILE, pressure continued to build up for the Federal government to intervene in the case.

Governor Stratton of Illinois in a letter to Attorney General Brownell, asked for such intervention, saying, "a citizen of Illinois was abducted and brutally murdered.

"It now appears that those responsible for this tragic crime are not being brought to justice.

"As governor of this state, I feel that it is my duty to request your office to investigate the violation of the rights of a citizen of this state."

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AT THE SAME time, the NAACP for the third time has called upon the Department of Justice to act.

In a telegram to Mr. Brownell, Roy Wilkins, NAACP executive secretary, said that Mississippi jurors have acted upon the assumption that Till was not murdered.

If this is so, Mr. Wilkins told the Attorney General, "The clear presumption is that his (Till's) kidnapers have carried him across a state boundary bringing the case within the jurisdiction of the FBI, under the Lindburg Act."

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THE AMERICAN Civil Liberties Union, commenting on the grand jury's refusal to indict Bryant and Milam, points out "This may encourage other persons who wish to do violence to colored persons."

"The ACLU rarely comments on whether or not a jury should indict," said Executive Director Patrick Murphy Malin, "but in this instance the facts so far disclosed, seem to show clearly that a violation of the right of equal treatment under the law has occurred.

"This latest attack on the principle of equality will not halt the efforts of individuals and organizations who are determined that the idea of equality for all Americans must be eventually achieved in every part of the country.

"The ACLU and others will, as one step toward this goal, continue to press for changes in the Federal civil rights laws which will enable the Federal Government to take more direct action in protection of minority group rights."



STRIKES SNAG — Los Angeles will not hear Mrs. Mamie Bradley, shown above with her kidnapped and murdered son, because the 35-year-old Chicago Air Force clerk, apparently listening to bad advices, attempted to capitalize on the tragedy which befell the nation and demanded $5000 for appearances at 11 meetings on a West Coast tour, "or a guarantee plus one-third of the proceeds, plus all expenses.

"Naacp doe not handle such matters on a commercial basis," Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the Naacp, which has been using funds raised on the tour to fight injustice in Mississippi and other southern states, announced, and cancelled Mrs. Bradley's appearances.

The young mother, widowed with the boy when he was four, had earlier said she was touring in the interest of the Naacp to tell the "Mississippi story", so that what happened to her boy would not happen to any other child. Naacp had been paying expenses for herself and her father, and according to unconfirmed reports, had given her $100 upon each appearance so that she would not lose anything by time away from work.



Afro-American
Sat. 10-15-55
Baltimore, Md.

DISTRESSING ORDEAL—Mrs. Mamie Bradley, mother of slain Emmett Till, this week, was forced to enter Provident Hospital in Chicago for a checkup and rest after her trip to Mississippi to attend the trial of the suspected murderers of her son. Mrs. Bradley has also been making strenuous speaking tours throughout the country urging financial aid to the NAACP Legal Defense Fund to keep tragedies such as happened to her boy from happening to the children of others.

Hidden by Milam, witness claims

Afro-American
Sat. 10-15-55
P 1 F
Baltimore, Md.

Hauled gravel for Milam during trial, Collins says in Chicago

CHICAGO — Levy (Too Tight) Collins, one of the mystery witnesses in the Till case, admitted Tuesday that he was taken away from the vicinity of the murder by J. W. Milam, one of the men accused of the murder.

Frequently contradicting himself on details of his story, Collins denied however, that he had any connection with or knew anything about the slaying.

Collins, a 22-year-old farm hand employed by Milam, is one of two colored men reportedly seen with Milam, Roy Bryant, his half brother, and the Till boy on the morning after his disappearance.

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QUESTION BY Col. Enclid L. Taylor, general counsel for the Chicago Defender, Collins said that he had been picked up at Glendora, Miss., and taken by Milam to Minter City, Miss., on the day after the abduction.

From there, he said, he and another farm hand were taken to the farm of Melvin Campbell, a brother-in-law of the Milam family and put to work.

Both he and Henry Lee Loggins, the second man reportedly seen wiht the Till boy and his abductors, worked at a job hauling gravel in trucks owned by Milam during the five days of the trial, Collins said.

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COL. TAYLOR said that he was unable to confront Collins with Willie Reed, an 18-year-old youth who testified at the trial that he had seen the four men with Till, since Reed is confined to Michael Reese Hospital for a nervous breakdown suffered shortly after he arrived in Chicago.

Collins steadfastly refused to talk at all about the case before conferring with Loggins with whom he had worked for Milam for the past four years.

Although arrangements were made for him to talk with Loggins, who is still in Sumner, Miss., by telephone, Collins still refused to talk freely and even denied knowing Mrs. Amanda Bradley, a woman witness in the case.

When confronted by Mrs. Bradley, however, Collins admitted that he had known her for several years. Mrs. Bradley testified at the murder trial that she heard screams coming from a barn owned by Milam's brother.

During the trial the two men were reported to have been hidden in a Charleston, Miss., jail. Collins denied that he had been held in the jail and disputed the story of a woman witness who said that she saw him there.

Under Guard

Willie's Up North, But He's Scared

Courier
Sat. 10-1-55

By GEORGE F. BROWN

CHICAGO—Willie Reed, the 18-year-old field hand who testified against J. W. Milam and Roy Bryant in the late lynching of Emmett Till, is in Chicago with his mother, Mrs. Edith Thomas, but he's scared to death.

Courier

He's a nervous wreck.

And nasty letters from white Chicagoans make him feel that he is still in Mississippi . . . Willie is under twenty-four-hour police guard . . . and he is in a near state of nervous collapse after his harrowing ordeal with Mississippi "justice."

Ltr. 10-8-55

WILLIE KNOWS the whole story and he knows the other Negroes who know the facts about the lynching of Emmett Till.

P-3

That's why he's scared to death, a thousand miles away from the shameful Mississippi episode.

Pittsburgh Courier

"He'll go back to Mississippi over my dead body," said his mother. **"I knew J. W. Milam and Willie knows him too. Milam has always been a 'bad white man' and Willie got word that he would be killed if he talked. He talked."**

A young fellow named Walter (no last name) was milking a cow when he heard the Till boy being beaten to death. He was silent.

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ANOTHER YOUNG man named Frank Young, put the finger on Willie Reed and the white folks dared him to talk.

Three other Negroes helped the slayers wash the blood out of a truck in which young Till was brutally mauled.

These three Negroes know Till's killers.

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WILLIE REED is a frail, sad-eyed, dark brownskin boy who strongly resembles his mother.

He considers himself lucky that Congressman Charles C. Diggs Jr. (Mich.) had the presence of mind to fly him out of the dangerous Mississippi town (where he lived and worked) to his mother in Chicago.

Willie was "on the spot" because his life-long fear of reprisal made him testify against Milam and Bryant.

Others beside Willie Reed can identify the killers, Willie said, but they have run away from home.

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WILLIE'S grandfather and grandmother, Ad and Mattie Reed, are still living in Drew, Miss., but he and his mother are worried about them.

Mississippi is fetid with tension, hate, and "getting even."

Willie testified in a court of law and had to run away from home for his pains. "The lynchers didn't give Emmett a chance to go in court," Willie shook his head sadly.

Willie is in Chicago, the shining El Dorado of freedom and good jobs to millions of Southern Negroes, but his reception was anything but good.

• • •

VENOMOUS LETTERS have come to his mother's small, two-room, third-floor flat calling him names, slurring his race and bearing threats.

Willie is dazed — and still scared and almost a nervous wreck. Even his mother has laid off the job at a laundry to be near him but she too is very nervous.

But the police are there and they take Willie away during the day and watch him at night.

Willie is worried because he didn't get a chance to say goodbye to his girlfriend, Ella Mae Stubbs, before he left Mississippi, but time was too short for him to leave soft words in Sunflower County.

Willie has left the sickening trial scene; other Negroes have fled into the night because they feared for their lives if they testified, still another refused to speak; and two white men were called not guilty by a jury of their "peers." Other Negroes are quietly leaving the state.

As Willie Reed says, "Everybody is scared. Why? What did we do?"

America's conscience can answer your question, Willie; I can't.

STORY OF HIDING TOLD BY WRIGHT

Times Picayune
New Orleans, La.

Slept in Cemetery Night of Acquittal, He Says

By FELIX B. WOLD

DETROIT, Oct. 8 (AP) — Witness Mose Wright of the recent Mississippi murder trial spent the night of the acquittal, he says, hiding in a church cemetery for fear he'd be harmed if he stayed home.

"I thought someone might come to the house and I gotten afraid they would do something to me," he said.

Sun 10-9-55

Wright, 64-year-old Negro, made the statement to a reporter in an interview Friday night.

P 28

He was a witness in the trial last month of J. W. Milam and Roy Bryant, two white men accused of murdering 14-year-old Emmett Till, a Chicago Negro. Till was a nephew of Wright and was visiting his uncle in Mississippi when he disappeared last August.

The aftermath of the trial, in which both men were acquitted, has led to a conflict between newspapers in Chicago and Mississippi.

'Slept In Cemetery'

Wright, a small man, said he spent the acquittal night, Sept. 23, sleeping in his car in the cemetery of the Church of God in Christ at his Money, Miss., home.

"I gotten up," he said, "gotten my pillow and went out and gotten my car and drove to the cemetery."

He repeated he feared to stay in the house. But he identified no one who he felt might harm him, however.

The hamlet of Money is not far from Sumner, Miss., scene of the murder trial.

The reporter talked to Wright in the home of his brother-in-law, John Carthan, a Detroit garage worker.

Among those present at the interview was a young Negro who identified himself as Peter Drake, a member of the NAACP.

Wright answered questions readily. At times, he was abrupt.

Face Kidnapping Charge

The two defendants in the Till slaying now face trial on charges

of kidnaping the boy. This charge has been brought in another Mississippi county.

The newspaper conflict found the Chicago American and the Jackson (Miss.) Daily News on opposite sides.

The Daily News said in a copyrighted story that Wright and two other Negro witnesses, Mrs. Amanda Bradley and Willie Reed, are "captives" of the NAACP.

The American, taking issue, quoted Wright and Mrs. Bradley in denials.

Wright has been in Chicago and Detroit since the trial.

Mrs. Bradley Heard at New Jersey Church

NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J., Oct. 8 (AP)—Mrs. Mamie Bradley of Chicago says she will devote the rest of her life trying to correct the conditions which led to the slaying of her son, Emmett Till, 14, in Mississippi last August.

"I want to make the Southern states, or any state where such a thing can happen, sick unto their souls," she told an overflow crowd of 500 persons at the Ebenezer Baptist church Friday night. Loudspeakers carried her words to a crowd outside the church.

Mrs. Bradley said she and her son had a happy family life until the Negro boy went to visit an uncle in Mississippi.

An all-white jury acquitted the two men charged with the slaying, Roy Bryant, 24, and J. W. Milan, 36. Both still face trial on kidnaping charges.

"We lived together, there were just the two of us," she said. "In some ways he was an unusual boy, but in most ways he was ordinary.

"I have many white friends and some of them I like better than some colored people. I just believe in the individual.

"That's the way I brought up Emmett."

Miss. Gov. spies on witnesses

● Aide disguised as policeman visits Chicago

Baltimore Afro-American

Uses Nat'l Guard plane in conspiracy

CHICAGO — How Mississippi's Governor Hugh White dispatched one of his aides and a newspaper reporter, disguised as policemen, to spy on witnesses to the Till murder trial here, was disclosed Friday.

The conspiracy was revealed when one of the men, Bill Spell, a newspaper reporter, returned home to write that the Till witnesses were being "held captive in Chicago."

Spell, accompanied by W. J. Chrisler, identified as an administrative aide to Governor White, reached Chicago Tuesday in a Mississippi National Guard plane.

* * *

THE TWO men, posing as police officers, went directly to the office of Chicago Police Commissioner O'Connor, where they obtained official clearance to visit the Till witnesses.

Two policemen drove them to the Prairie Ave. Station, where Police Captain Thomas Kelley, assigned a police detail to accompany them on visits to Willie Reed and Mrs. (Aunt Mandy) Bradley, who were key state's witnesses in the Till murder trial at Sumner, Miss.

Captain Kelley later told reporters: "I was led to believe that Spell was a Mississippi policeman and Chrisler was a state patrolman. I assigned Lt. Edward Wolfe to take them to visit Reed and Mrs. Bradley."

When the two men appeared at the residence of Mrs. Mamie Bradley, mother of 14-year-old Emmett Till, the lynch victim, they led her to believe that they were police officers.

* * *

MRS. MANDY Bradley, who is no relation, had been residing with Till's mother since she fled Mississippi in fear of her life after testifying in the trial of the two half brothers, W. J. Milam and Roy Bryant.

Till's mother, unnerved by appearance of the gruff Mississippians, called William H. Huff, head of the Chicago NAACP legal Redress Committee.

Mr. Huff, a lawyer, advised her to keep the men at her residence until he could reach there. But the pair had departed by the time he reached the address, he said.

MRS. BRADLEY revealed that the men had left without questioning the witness.

They were successful in talking to Willie Reed, a patient at Michael Reese hospital. Reed, police said, told Spell that he had fled from Missisippi, because he feared Bryant and Milam would "get even with me for testifying against them."

But Spell went back to Mississippi and wrote that "the witnesses are now being held captive in the deepest part of Chicago's South Side section by the NAACP."

Spell's version was that Reed was frightened and only mumbled answers to his questions.

* * *

THE CHICAGO NAACP vigorously denied that either Reed or Mrs. Amanda Bradley left Mississippi against their will.

The denial was supported by the witnesses themselves.

Mrs. Amanda Bradley said: "That's the most fantastic thing I ever heard. Nobody is keeping me here. I wanted to come, and I did, paying my own way."

Reed's mother said: "The more I hear about what's supposed to be happening to us, the more fantastic it gets."

In Detroit, 64-year-old Moses Wright, who identified Bryant and Milam as the kidnappers of his nephew, said:

* * *

"**WELL,** I guess I have now heard everything. I not only came to Chicago of my own free will, but I brought my wife, and my three children."

Wright added that he will return to Mississippi for the kidnap trial, adding that "they can't do anything but kill me."

Mrs. Cora Patton, president of the Chicago NAACP, said: "Spell did not bother to call our office to ask our help in his investigation. If he had, he would have learned that nobody is being held captive as he has charged."

Willie Reed Told To Remain In Chicago

Kansas City Mo. Call

Testified At First Trial But Won't At Second

Friday 9-30-55

CHICAGO—(ANP)—Willie Reed, 17-year-old witness for the state in the Till murder trial, said here that he will not go back to Mississippi to testify in the kidnapping trial of Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam, who are charged with taking Emmett Till from the home of his uncle. Till was later found brutally murdered.

The decision of young Reed not to go back to Mississippi might hurt further chance for a guilty verdict against Milam and Bryant who were acquitted earlier on charges of murdering the 14-year-old Chicago youth.

Mrs. Edith Thomas, M, mother of Reed, told reporters here: "Under no circumstances will I permit my only child to risk his life a second time. Willie told the Tallahatchie county jury all he knew at the murder trial. His testimony is there if they want it."

Afraid To Go

Reed, who is recovering from a nervous disorder at Michael Reese hospital here, was quoted as saying that he is "afraid to go back there." His mother added:

"Do you think I want my boy killed? If I let him talk before the LeFlore County jury next month God only knows what might happen to him."

The governor of Mississippi, Hugh White, is quoted by a Chicago paper as saying that if Reed doesn't want to testify, that's his business.

"It's all a lot of propaganda, anyhow. There is no danger here that should firghten any witness," White is quoted as saying. He added that he has no power to compel the youth to testify.

Names Prosecutor

White also announced that the prosecutor for the kidnap trial will be Stanley Sanders of Indianola in Sunflower county. LeFlore was a Mississippi policeman and Chrisler was a representative o Gov. White. I assigned Lt. Edward Wolfe to take them to the hospital which he did," Kelly said.

Spell wrote that the witnesse are now being held captive in the deepest part of Chicago's South Side Negro section by the N ACP." He said that when the NAACP "found out I was there, I was no longer permitted to talk."

According to Spell, Reed was frightened and only mumbled in answer to his initial questions. Following is a portion of Spell's account of the interview:

Spell: "I came here to get the truth about why you left Mississippi and to find if you are afraid to go back."

No answer.

"You don't have to answer me. I am here to find who you are afraid of, if you are afraid of anybody."

Still no answer.

Spell: "I just want to know if anyone did you any harm before you left."

Reed: "No, sir."

"Did anyone threaten you or say they would hurt you?"

"No sir, but I was afraid they might."

"Who were you afraid of?"

"Mr. Bryant and Mr. Milam."

Spell said that Reed answered his question freely and said that he left Mississippi of his own free will becauase he "looked at Milam and Bryant and was afraid to stay."

Came Of Own Will

Meanwhile, the NAACP here denied that either Redd, Mrs. Amanda Bradley, or Moses Wright were brought here against their will. This denial was backed up by the other persons involved in the case.

Mrs. Amanda Bradley said: "That's the most fantastic thing I ever heard. Nobody is keeing me here. I wanted to come, and I did, paying my own way."

In Detroit, 64-year-old Moses Wright said: "Well, I guess I have now heard everything. I not only came to Chicago of my own free will, but I brought my wife, and my three children."

Wright, who identified Milam and Bryant in the murder trial, said he will return to Mississippi for the kidnap trial, adding that "they can't do anything but kill me."

Reed's mother, when told of the "captive charges," said, "The more I hear about what's supposed to be happening to us, the more fantastic it gets."

Mrs. Cora Patton, president of the Chicago NAACP, said: "Spell did not bother to call our office to ask our help in his investigation. If he had, he would have learned that nobody is being held captive as he has charged."

No mention was made in Spell's story of Leroy (Too Tight) Collins, Negro, who is reported to have been seen with Till and his abductors before the 14-year-old boy was found murdered.

Collins was identified by Reed as one of perhaps three Negroes who were seen riding in a truck with Milam, Bryant, and other white men. Another Negro, Henry Lee Loggins, who was also reported to be in the truck, has disappeared.

Once, Loggin was said to be in St. Louis. Then, he was reported back in Mississippi. Latest reports say that his whereabouts are unknown.

In Chicago, Collins said that he and Loggin had been in a Mississippi jail during the murder trial for fear they could throw light on the killing.

Guards Witnesses

CHICAGO, Sept. 29 (AP).—The homes of two key witnesses in the Till murder case have been put under round-the-clock police protection.

Herald Tribune Fri. 9-30-55

A police officer on each of three daily shifts has been assigned to the home of Mrs. Mamie Bradley, mother of the dead Chicago Negro youth, and to the home of Willie Reed, an eighteen-year-old Negro cotton picker.

Mr. Reed was spirited off to Chicago by friends after his testimony in the murder trial in which defendants J. W. Milam, thirty-six, and his half brother, Roy Bryant, twenty-four, were acquitted of charges of murder.

In his testimony, Mr. Reed had placed Milam with Emmett three hours after the time Milam and Bryant told investigators they had freed him. Police said the men have admitted the kidnaping but told police they later released the boy and denied murdering him. They will face a hearing to determine bond on kidnaping charges in Greenwood, Miss., tomorrow.

"Cruel Hoax"

DETROIT, Sept. 29 (AP).—A report that Emmett Till has been found alive in Detroit was denounced today as "a cruel hoax" by his mother.

Mrs. Mamie Bradley, of Chicago, who spoke here last night protesting the acquittal of two men accused of slaying her son, was asked about the report from the Sumner, Miss., sheriff's office.

She said: "I am willing to have my boy's body exhumed from the vault for a thorough examination if that would dispel these wild rumors. If he were alive I would know. I don't know how this could come up."

Phony Till case witness also proves to be a thief

Afro-American Baltimore, Md.
Sat. 11-19-55
P. 1 & 8

PHILADELPHIA

George Morris, vice president of the Philadelphia Branch NAACP, has confirmed that a man identifying himself as an eye witness to the Emmett Till lynching in Mississippi is an impostor. This was discovered last week when the man fled from a train taking him to NAACP headquarters in N.Y.C. after he told his story to Dr. U. S. Wiggins, head of the Camden, N.J. branch.

MR. MORRIS' revelation came when he reported to police officials Thursday that a man, known to him as Melvin Cuff had stolen two suits of clothing from his roommate and fled from the Lorraine Hotel, Broad St., and Fairmount Ave.

The man had represented himself to Mr. Morris as the missing Mississippi witness.

* * *

ACCORDING to Mr. Morris he received a telephone call from Mrs. Katie M. Greene, wife of Dr. Harry Greene, president of the Philadelphia NAACP, on Saturday when he returned from the funeral of his brother.

Mrs. Greene told him that a man who said he was a missing witness in the Till lynching case was at their home and for him to come immediately.

MR. MORRIS went to the Greene residence at 5887 Blakemore St., where he met a dark, brown-skinned man, about 150 pounds, rough skinned and with his left eye missing.

He was in a dirty condition and claimed that it was the result of having escaped from a jail in Mississippi. He told Mr. Morris a convincing story.

In an effort to aid the man and also have contact with him to the New Yok office of the NAACP, Mr. Morris took the man to the Lorraine Hotel, conducted by Father Divine.

At first the registration clerk, Miss Hope, refused to admit the man because of his disheveled condition but yielded to the pleas of Mr. Morris.

* * *

REGISTERED as Milton Cuff, the man was housed with another guest at the hotel. Mr. Morris went home, got 8 pairs of pants and other clothing and took them to Mr. Cuff so that he coud clean himself up.

On Wednesday Miss Hope called Mr. Morris and told him that the Mr. Cuff had stolen two suits belonging to his roommate and fled.

When Mr. Morris went to the hotel he searched through the old clothing left behind by the missing man and in the shirt pocket found social security card, number 169-20-3747 made out to Melvin E. Cuff.

Mr. Morris then checked with Dr. Wiggins, president of the Camden NAACP and learned that the man who had come to him last weekend as a missing Mississippi witness closely followed the description of the "Mr. Cuff" even down to the missing left eye.

The man had told Dr. Wiggins his name was Melvin Cook.

Dr. Wiggins had sent the man, presumably to New York, with Mrs. Bernice Napper, an NAACP field secretary, after "Melvin Cook" had contacted him there. "Cook was last seen by Miss Napper when he jumped off the train in Philadelphia just as it pulled off for New York.

Mr. Morris turned over the information to police after a conference with Dr. Greene as to the details.

'Told the Truth'

Uncle Moses Unafraid in Return Home

Courier
Sat. 11-19-55
P. 2

By WILLIAM A. FOWLKES

GREENWOOD, Miss.—Coming back to testify in the Till case, Moses Wright, great-uncle of the lynched boy, presented no evidence of fear for himself or the situation.

Pittsburgh, Pa

The 64-year-old preacher-sharecropper had boarded a train in Chicago with 75-year-old Willie Reed to return from their exile and to testify against two white men accused of kidnapping 14-year-old Emmett Till from Wright's home.

Reed, who had undergone a siege of illness in Chicago since fleeing the state (after the Sumner murder trial), was not as composed as his elder, a Church of God in Christ licensed preacher.

* * *

LEFT, FOR the most part, in the "protective" custody of Negro newsmen who furnished them transportation and meals around Greenwood, Wright and Reed were cheerful throughout the ordeal.

They faced newspaper, newsreel and general cameramen along with reporters and never failed to come out in command of the situation.

After Wright has finished his first twenty-five-minute period of testimony before the grand jurors, a photographer from the local white press queried:

"Uncle Mose, did you have a good time in there?"

The Rev. Mr. Wright never faltered in answering:

"Well, I just answered their questions and told the truth!"

* * *

THE PHOTOGRAPHER didn't ask another question.

Reed said they "tried to twist" him up on identification of Till's picture, but added: "They didn't!"

Wright appeared twice in the grand jury room, the second span covering about two minutes. Reed was queried twenty minutes.

'Too Tight' Collins Found In Mississippi

Defender
Sat. 11-19-55
P. 1

By L. ALEX WILSON

MEMPHIS — Levy "Too Tight" Collins, 22, who had been reported missing since his return to Mississippi from Chicago on or after Oct. 4, was found last week in Mississippi after an extensive search Chicago, Ill.

L. Alex Wilson, editor of the Tri-State Defender, said "Too Tight" is working at a sawmill in a little town not too far from Greenwood, Miss. Collins had been employed by J. W. Milam, one of the defendants in the Emmett L. Till slaying.

Collins agreed on Sept. 30 to leave Missssippi and go to Chicago for his own safety. While in Chicago he denied to the Defender that he knew anything about the brutal Till murder.

Last week Milam called on the state of Mississippi to give assistance in locating Collins and charged the Chicago Defender with "foul play" in his disappearance since Oct. 10.

Prior to this request by Milam, reports from reliable underground sources in Mississippi had been made that Milam had offered money to persons on his farm to find "Too Tight".

Sunday, Nov. 6, the Tri-State Defender, after quite a bit of difficulty and with assistance of cooperative citizens, was able to find Collins' mother, whose full name and address is being withheld in her interest.

The young man's mother said: "I have been worried sick about my son. I haven't seen him since last August. I hope you will do everything in your power to find him. It is true that I heard about him being in Chicago at the Defender and I was hoping he was still in Chicago." He said: 'I want to go back to

The owner of the home in which the mother lives, said also that "Too Tight" has not returned since August.

Defender

After Collins was interviewed by the Defender, he was warned by each of the newspaper's top officials and this editor that it would be unwise to return to Mississippi, and especially to Glendora, where he had been living.

However, "Too Tight" was persistent about returning.

'COMING BACK' P. 2

He said: "I want to go back to see my mother. I haven't seen her for sometime. (His mother does not live in the same town in which Collins was residing.) After I see her and talk with her I am coming back here. I plan to leave Mississippi either on Saturday or Sunday, Oct. 7th or 8th for Chicago."

He added: "Mr. Wilson is going back to Memphis, and if it is alright with him, I'd like to go that far with him. Then I'll catch a bus and go on and see my mother."

Before Collins made clear his decision, he had been offered a good job, promised a place to live and had been encouraged to remain and complete his education.

TREATED ROYALLY

He was outfitted with new clothes and later given funds to aid his mother and for his transportation back to Chicago.

After the two of us arrived in Memphis on Oct. 4, between 6:30 and 7 p.m., I helped Collins arrange his transportation by bus to the city in which his mother lives.

He didn't show up in Memphis on Oct. 7 nor 8 as promised.



Return to Mississippi—Willie Reed, center, who returned to Mississippi with Moses Wright, great-uncle of the slain Emmett Till, related incidents about the night of the kidnapping to Wells Church, CBS radio commentator, during a lull in the grand jury proceedings at Greenwood, Miss. — Armstrong Photo.

Third Till Case Witness Found

CHICAGO — (ANP)—Two new discoveries in the Emmett Louis Till murder case were revealed by the AFRO-AMERICAN in its Oct. 29 edition.

In a story from New York James L. Hicks' byline, the AFRO said the missing third witness in the Till case has been found in Mississippi and efforts are being made to get him to tell what he knows about the boy's death.

Another story by reporter Samuel Hayes in Newark N. J., carried charges by a Newark minister's brother was reportedly killed by J. W. Milam, one of the two half-brothers freed by a Mississippi jury in the kidnap-murder of the 14-year-old Chicago youth.

The missing witness, whose name was withheld, is said to be known by Dr. T. R. M. Howard of Mound Bayou, Miss., militant Negro leader in that state. The witness has refussed thus far to talk about the murder to anyone but his immediate family, the AFRO account says.

The witness reportedly told his father that he was on the truck with Emmett Till, that he has important information concerning the murder, but that he is afraid to talk because of fear that he will be named as an accomplice in the murder.

According to the AFRO, the man now under questioning has named another Negro and two white men who were on the truck the night Till was abducted.

In Newark, the Rev. Benjamin Eddie Love, assistant minister of Hopewell Baptist church, told the AFRO:

(1) That he was told by his mother, Mrs. Marie Love, whom he last saw four years ago when his family lived in Glendora, Miss., that his brother, A. C. Love, was shot to death by J. W. Milam in 1949 during a quarrel over wages due Love.

(2) That his mother, stepfather and two brothers slipped away from the Milam farm about six months ago and went to Arkansas, Milam, according to another sister who lives and works on a nearby farm, went to Arkansas and brought them back.

They have not been seen since, the minister told the AFRO.

Moses Wright Makes Appearance Before LeFlore County Grand Jury

World

Fri. 11-11-55

2 Freed Of Till Kidnap Charges

P. 1

Birmingham, Ala.

GREENWOOD, Miss. — (INS) — A Mississippi Grand Jury cleared two white men Wednesday of charges of kidnapping Emmett Till, a 14-year-old Chicago Negro boy.

The 20-member, all white grand jury returned a "No Bill" late Wednesday at Greenwood on the kidnap charges that were place against J. W. Milam, 36, and his half-brother, Roy Bryant, 24.

That was the last chance that had remained against the men who were acquitted of murdering young Till at a trial in neighboring Tallachatche County in September.

The LeFlore County Grand Jury heard testimony from four witnesses before announcing its "No Bill" decision to Circuit Court Judge Arthur Jordan.

The witnesses were Sheriff George Smith, Deputy Sheriff E. Cothern, Willie Reed, an 18 year-old youth, and Mose Wright, Till's great uncle from whose home the boy was abducted on the morning of Aug-

Wright testified at the murder trial that Bryant and Milam came to his house and took Till away at gun point. That was the last time he saw his nephew alive.

Smith told the murder trial jury that Bryant admitted that he and Milam took the boy from the house, but that they released him unharmed a short time later.

Red testified at the murder trial that he saw someone resembling Till in the back of a pickup truck with three other Negroes the day of the youth's disappearance. He said he later saw the truck parked near a barn on a farm operated by Milam's brother, Leslie. He related that he heard "Hollering" coming from the barn and saw a man who looked like J. W. Milam nearby.

8851

Brownell Will Consider Till Murder Case

CHICAGO—(ANP)—U. S. Attorney General Herbert Brownell said here that he will give "careful consideration" to a request by Illinois Gov. Stratton asking for a Justice Department investigation into the kidnapping and murder of Emmett Till.

Brownell said that he had not seen the note sent by Stratton, but that he will read it when he returned to Washington.

Meanwhile, across the nation protests continued to mount over the action of the LeFlore County grand jury which freed two white men, Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam, on charges that they kidnapped 14-year-old Till.

The two men stood trial and were acquitted of the boy's murder in September. With the grand jury action, they are now free of any chance of punishment in the crime.

The Chicago Tribune backed up Stratton's request for a federal probe of the affair. Said the Tribune: "Every state is bound to give full faith and credit to the acts of other states...But there is nothing in the record to indicate that the citizens of Mississippi acted in good faith toward a citizen of Illinois."

The Chicago Daily News said: "It is both humiliating and infuriating that this brutal and wanton crime should go unpunished. Those who cherish equal justice for all as the ideal of democracy must bow their heads in shame at this blot on our national honor."

Stratton said he does not believe the case should be dropped at this point. "Somebody murdered that boy and should pay for it," he declared.

Other groups spoke out against the outcome of the grand jury investigation into the affair. The American Civil Liberties Union said in New York:

Other Protests Made

"The ACLU rarely comments on whether or not a jury should indict, but in this instance the fact so far disclosed seem to show clearly that a violation of the right of equal treatment under the law has occurred."

The Washington (D.C.) Star: "These facts leave room only for the conclusion that there are two kinds of 'justice' in Mississippi — one for whites and another for colored."

Hodding Carter, editor of the Greenville (Miss.) Delta Democrat: "Unfortunately, it is going to mean a great deal to Mississippi and none of it will be good."

Walter P. Reuther, UAW and CIO president: "The decision ... not to indict the two men who kidnapped Emmett Louis Till is more shocking than their recent acquittal on murder charges in the same case.

"The men publicly admitted taking the boy by force from his uncle's home. Law enforcement officers so testified before the grand jury — Yet no indictment was returned. This... may haunt us for years to come."

Seek Legislation

Reuther said that the UAW-CIO will continue to press for anti-lynching legislation and that the union is working with the NAACP for a "civil rights mobilization" to be convened in Washington early next year.

In New York, Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the NAACP, in a telegram to Brownell urged once more that the Justice Department conduct an investigation.

"In view of the acquittal and the refusal to indict, the NAACP again urges the Department of Justice to enter the case actively.

"Young Till has been missing since August. If, as the Tallahatchie jury decided, the body was not his, the clear presumption is that his kidnappers have carried him across a state boundary bringing the case within the jurisdiction of the FBI under the Lindbergh Act," Wilkins said.

In Mississippi, Gov. Hugh White, when asked to comment on Gov Stratton's request for a federal investigation, had this to say:

"I wouldn't dignify it by making a statement."

FBI Again Asked to Probe Till Kidnaping

NEW YORK. — Attorney General Herbert Brownell has again been called upon to intervene in the kidnapping of 14-year-old Emmett Till in view of the acquittal of his accused killers and the refusal of the LeFlore county grand jury to indict them on the kidnap charge.

In a telegram to Mr. Brownell, Roy Wilkins, NAACP executive secretary, pointed out that the jurors in the murder trial based their verdict on the claim that the body was not that of young Till, who has been missing since August 28.

If this is so, Mr. Wilkins told the attorney general, "the clear presumption is that his (Till's) kidnapers have carried him across a state boundary bringing the case within the jurisdiction of the Federal Bureau of Investigation under the Lindbergh act."

The text of the telegram follows:

A jury in Tallahatchie county, Miss., has acquitted two men charged with the murder of 14-year-old Emmett Till on the ground that the body recovered from the Tallahatchie River was not that of the missing youth.

In neighboring LeFlore county a grand jury last Thursday refused to indict the men on a kidnap charge although they had previously admitted taking the boy from the home of his great uncle and were identified by witnesses.

In view of the acquittal and the refusal to indict, NAACP again urges Department of Justice to enter the case actively. Young Till has been missing since August 28.

If, as the Tallahatchie jury decided, the corpus delicti was not his, the clear presumption is that his kidnapers have carried him across a state boundary bringing the case within the jurisdiction of the Federal Bureau of Investigation under the Lindbergh act.

Brownell Says He Will 'Consider' Till Probe

CHICAGO. — (ANP) — U. S. Attorney General Herbert Brownell said here this week that he will give "careful consideration" to a request by Illinois Gov. William S. Stratton asking for a Justice department investigation into the kidnapping and murder of Emmett Till.

Brownell said that he had not seen the note sent by Stratton, but that he will read it when he returned to Washington.

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Tribune Asks Probe.

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TILL DEATH TERMED 'REAL BLACK MARK'

Deputy Attorney General Tells Of Letters

WASHINGTON, Nov. 20.—(AP)—Deputy Atty. Gen. William P. Rogers Sunday called the slaying of Emmett Till "a real black mark" in that the Negro boy's killers "have not been brought to justice."

Two white men have been found innocent of murdering the 14-year-old Chicago youth who disappeared while vacationing in Mississippi last summer. The same two, Roy Bryant and his half-brother J. W. Milam, also were freed of kidnaping charges in the case.

Till had been visiting his uncle, who told authorities two white men took the boy away for allegedly making remarks to Bryant's wife.

Mr. Rogers was asked during a televised interview (ABC-College Press Conference) whether his "black mark" comment implied he thought there had not been a fair trial.

"No," Mr. Rogers replied, "I want to say this—that I think it's a black mark in the sense that those responsible have not been brought to justice."

He said he had not followed the case closely enough "to say exactly where the fault lies." He added, "Proper administration of justice would have required that these people who were guilty be punished." He did not elaborate.

Mr. Rogers said the Justice Department has received about 3,000 letters asking why the Federal Government had taken no action in the case. Without expressing the department's opinion, he said, "We just have no authority to step into a state if we think there is a failure in the administration of justice."

Mr. Rogers, answering other questions, said he hoped that as a result of such an inquiry as is now being conducted by the Senate's Constitutional Rights Subcommittee "the idea doesn't get circulated that this nation is not making progress in civil rights."

The subcommittee is searching for what Chairman Thomas Hennings (D., Mo.) has described as any evidence of an "erosion" of civil liberties in the United States.

Brownell Rejects Till Case Pleas

Defender Chicago, Ill.
Oct 1-7-55

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — U. S. Atty. Gen. Herbert Brownell, jr., has rejected the pleas of both Illinois Gov. Stratton and Cong. Harrison A. Williams, (Dem., N. J.) to investigate the Emmett Louis Till slaying in Money, Miss.

Governor Stratton made his appeal to the Justice Department chief after a jury in LeFlore County, Miss., refused to indict Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam on kidnapping charges even though the men had admitted taking the lad from his home in the middle of the night.

Congressman Williams asked Brownell to act after many community leaders in New Jersey talked with him about the case and after he personally noted that there were no Negroes on the jury because no Negroes are registered to vote in the county.

BROWNELL'S STORY

Atty. Gen. Brownell announced that no federal offense was involved in the case and he could not act.

He declared that the only reason for federal jurisdiction would have been if state or local officers had been implicated in the crime or if Till had been taken across a state line.

Till, 14, was taken from the home of his great uncle, Moses Wright, in Money, last August and his badly beaten, mutilated body was found in the Tallahatchie river three days later.

Congressman Williams told Brownell that since there are 19,000 Negroes in the county, there is a strong indication that in one way or another, they are being prevented from voting.

He pointed out that the 15th Amendment of the Constitution forbids anyone to deny citizens the right to vote.

announced that a recent meeting with many community leaders had prompted him to send the following letter to Attorney General Brownell:

"In reading newspaper accounts of the recent trial for the murder of Emmett Till in Mississippi I was struck by a statement by the clerk of the court that there were no Negroes on the jury because no Negroes are registered to vote in the county. I am informed that there are some 19,000 Negro residents in the county, and this would seem to me an indication of strong circumstantial evidence that Negroes are in one way or another being prevented from voting. Surely among 19,000 citizens of the Negro race, there must be some who are qualified to vote.

"As you know, the fifteenth amendment of the Constitution states, 'The right of the citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.' I believe that the spirit, if not the letter, of this amendment is being violated in Mississippi. The facts available to the public point to the urgent need of an investigation by your Department to determine whether this is the case."

Congressman Williams said, "I want to commend the many leaders who have expressed to me their deep concern regarding the constitutional rights of all citizens. I share this concern with them and believe we must be ever vigilant

Congressman Writes Brownell

Uniformed P.3

Available Facts Warrant Probe In Emmit Till Case

Houston Informer
Oct 12-17-55

WASHINGTON, D C — Congressman Harrison A Williams (D. N J)

8852

Governor Refuses Appeal For Probe

By L. ALEX WILSON

BELZONI, Miss. — Mississippi's first lynching since 1949 occurred here last Saturday when a prominent and militant Baptist minister was slain in gangland style.

Close to one thousand persons from all walks of life attended outdoor rites last week for Rev. George W. Lee, 51, owner of Lee's grocery store and printing shop at 230 Hayden st., a realtor and pastor of four county churches.

The popular cleric was ambushed and fatally wounded by three shotgun blasts from another auto carrying several whites as he drove his car down Belzoni's Church st.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has stepped into the case, an NAACP official stated, and pellets taken from the minister's body are being analyzed in Washington.

An extensive NAACP probe of the brutal slaying is being headed by Medgar Evers, of Jackson and Mrs. Ruby Hurley, southeast regional secretary of the NAACP.

Gov. Hugh White turned a deaf ear upon an NAACP request that he "call upon the good people of Mississippi to stand up for individual rights and denounce the gang action."

SNAP GOVERNOR WHITE

NAACP officials declared they expected little help from White

sippi to determine whether existing Federal civil rights laws have been violated.

The case, brought to the attention of a Senate [illegible] subcommittee Tuesday, involves the shooting to death of the Rev George W. Lee in Belzoni, Mississippi, in an effort to intimidate colored persons into removing their names from state voting lists.

Federal civil rights statutes make it a federal offense for two or more persons to injure, oppress, threaten or intimidate any citizen in the free exercise or enjoyment of any federally-secured right, the maximum punishment for which is a fine of $5,000 and ten years in prison.

The right to vote is a federally secured right.

Clarence Mitchell, head of the Washington Bureau of the NAACP, accompanied by G. Francis Pohlaus, counsel for the bureau, told the Senate Privileges and Elections subcommittee about the murder of The Rev Lee during his testimony on the bill of Senator Thomas C. Hennings, Jr, Democrat, of Missouri, to revise federal election laws and outlaw corrupt practices in federal elections.

A system has been worked out in Mississippi, Mitchell charged so that when a colored man pays his poll tax, his employer is informed and threatens to fire the man unless he tears up his poll tax receipt.

Mitchell said he has information from a resident doctor in Mississippi that [illegible] reported to be members of the Citizens Councils, have systematically intimidated colored persons who have paid their poll taxes and registered.

This doctor informed him, Mitchell testified, that colored persons who had done so were told to have their names stricken from the county voting rolls. Ninety-two of them, including The Rev Lee refused to do so, he said.

About four weeks ago, he testified, a wave of car-windshield breaking began. The cars were owned by colored persons. Although this property destruction continued for about two weeks, Mitchell said, no arrests were made.

He also testified that the Elks' Rest was broken into and, after much property was destroyed, a note was left warning that this was what would happen to colored people who try to vote. Mitchell said this note was signed by the Citizens Councils.

Citizens Councils are new organizations formed in Mississippi to put economic pressure on colored people in that state to force them to accept continued racial segregation and discrimination.

Quoting his informant, Mitchell testified:

"About midnight May 7, 1955, the Rev. George W. Lee was driving along Church street in Belzoni, Mississippi, when, according to witnesses, three white men in a convertible car shot three times and drove off.

"Rev Lee lost control of his car and crashed into a house. He was rushed to a hospital and died on his way.

"I (the informant) assisted the coroner in the post-mortem examination and this is what the examination revealed."

The doctor them went on to give a medical statement, which showed that in his opinion Rev Lee was shot to death from the convertible.

The coroner reported, however, according to the testimony, that Rev Lee was killed because a piece of scantling punched him in the jaw and he died from shock.

The coroner also reported, Mitchell said, that the lead which was found in his face might have come from his teeth rather than a shotgun.

The doctor who gave him the information, Mitchell testified, pointed out that dentists don't use lead.

Mitchell also said that the coroner reported that the noise which sounded like a shotgun could have been three ire-blowouts.

The worst of this, Mitchell said, is that the newspaper stories termed the death of Rev Lee as "a freak accident, a freak death," and the Clarion-Ledger reported "Negro Dies in Odd Accident."

"The Governor, the Attorney General and other officials of that state have said very flatly that if Negroes do not like it down there," Mitchell said, "they had just as well get out and go somewhere else."

FBI Steps In As Case Hits Snag

Sheriff Admits Shotgun Was The Death Weapon; NAACP Says Pastor Encouraged Mississippi Voters

Special to Journal and Guide

BELZONI, Miss.—A blast from a shotgun snuffed out the life of a prominent minister-civil rights leader here last week, and members of the local branch NAACP have laid blame in the death to influence of the white Citizens Councils, groups organized to keep segregation in all walks of life and at any cost.

The shotgun pellet-sprayed body of the Rev. George W. Lee was taken from the wreck of his automobile after the car ploughed into a house in the Negro section. Local officers at first reported the minister died from the crash, but investigation by an FBI laboratory showed that the bits of metal imbedded in the victim's face were "similar in weight and composition to No. 3 buckshot."

• • •

IN A TELEGRAM to the Justice Department, a spokesman for the Belzoni branch NAACP charged that Rev. Mr. Lee was slain because he tried to get Negroes to vote in Humphreys county which lies within the heart of the Delta's Black Belt', where colored residents outnumber whites.

The NAACP spokesman further said that "In some sections of the state the pretense of law enforcement officers to protect Negro citizens has collapsed since the advent of the white Citizens Councils."

• • •

THE NAACP ASKED that the US Justice Department make arrangements to provide protection for a mass protest meeting it had slated for Sunday night.

Local Sheriff Ike Shelton, commenting on the request for Federal protection at the meeting said members of the NAACP would not be bother-

Probes New Type Lynching In Mississippi

By LOUIS LAUTIER

WASINGTON, D. C. (NNPA)—The FBI was reported Wednesday to be making a preliminary investigation into what was termed a new form of lynching in Missis-

ed" If they don't violate the laws."

* * *

SHERIFF SHELTON, who agreed that Rev. Mr. Lee died from shotgun wounds even though a coroner's jury was unable to reach a verdict, said, further, "We haven't done anything wrong and we're not going to let them (NAACP members plann ng Sunday's meeting) take the town."

No official comment in the case has yet come from US Attorney General Herbert Brownell, Jr., to whom the NAACP's telegram was addressed.

Bring Them To Justice

What always amazes us is the complete indifference of our self - anointed patriots when a disgraceful incident like the lynching of the Rev. George W. Lee occurs.

Where are all of the saviors of law and order, the loud defenders of constitutional government, the Paul Reveres of freedom?

What becomes of those headline-hunting bloodhounds, who can always sniff out subversives where none existed before?

Why do incidents like these always catch our otherwise alert editorial "viewers with alarm" looking the other way?

The silence of the Westbrook Peglers, the Frank Kents, the George Sokolsky's, the David Lawrences, the Dorothy Thompsons, and the Arthur Krocks is thundering.

How can our star-spangled organizations like the American Legion and the Daughters of the American Revolution remain so calm in the face of such a clear and present danger?

Why is it they can never work up enthusiasm to pass resolutions condemning brutal subversives like the Mississippi lynchers of a man whose 'crime' was daring to exercise his constitutionally-guaranteed right to vote?

Surely, they must be aware that one incident like this seized upon by our enemies has a more disastrous effect on America's bid for world leadership than all the conspiracies our native-born Communists have been able to dream up during the past quarter century.

Of even more serious importance is the numbing impact that cruel and unprovoked deeds like these have on the moral fibre of our citizens — particularly our young people.

How can parents point self - righteous fingers at juvenile delinquency when malignant adult delinquency symbolized by the vile Mississippi Citizens Council remains so glaringly apparent?

The full force and majesty of the Federal Government, backed not by just a few but all citizens who believe in swift and equal law enforcement must be brought into play if the perpetrators of the foul Lee lynching are to be brought to book.

And they must be brought to justice if our nation is not to lose one more despairing skirmish in the raging battle for men's minds.

Even our so-often blind, flag-waving patriots should be able to clearly see the efficacy of that.

FBI Launches Full Probe In Death Of Rev. George Lee

WASHINGTON — (SNS) — Friday the Justice Department revealed that the Federal Bureau of Investigation has launched a "full scale" investigation into the mysterious death of the militant Belzoni, Miss. minister, the Rev. G. W. Lee who was killed under mysterious circumstances May 7.

The announcement was made by Justice Department Public Relations Director G. Frederick Mullen, who explained that a preliminary FBI probe had turned up enough information to warrant a full investigation.

The militant Belzoni minister who allegedly was threatened for not removing his name from the voter registers list and for urging other Belzoni Negroes to register and vote, died May 7 en route to a hospital after his crashed into a house on Church Street in Belzoni.

It has been conjectured that Rev. Lee lost control of his car after being shot from a shotgun fired by three white men in a convertible car. Small lead pellets found in the facial wounds of the Rev. Mr. Lee in an examination by two Negro doctors were sent to Washington and later analyzed as shot gun pellets.

The slaying of the Belzoni minister has been attributed to the work of the white so-called Citizens Councils in Mississippi. Mississippi state NAACP president, Dr. A. H. McCoy of Jackson, placed direct blame on the councils although Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the NAACP at the mass meeting held in Belzoni protesting the slaying of Rev. Lee, declined to place direct blame on the citizens councils but inferred their actions possibly led to the slaying.

'Lynching' Witness Talks

Flees State To Save His Own Life

Tells FBI How Minister Was Slain in Belzoni

NEW YORK — An eye-witness to the fatal shooting of the Rev. George W. Lee in Belzoni, Miss., on May 7 who fled the state of Mississippi was located in East St. Louis, Ill., last week and told FBI agents what he saw that night.

The witness, Alex Hudson, fled the state of Mississippi a week after the killing in fear that his own life would be taken. He was found in East St. Louis by the NAACP Billy Jones, an East St. Louis lawyer and president of the Illinois State NAACP, accompanied Hudson to the FBI office where he told his story.

Many consider the slaying of the Rev. Mr. Lee a "lynching."

Hudson told the FBI that he was sitting with a friend when the Rev. Mr. Lee's car passed. He saw another car overtake that of the clergyman and heard shots fired from the second car. The minister's car swerved off the road and crashed into a house while the other car disappeared in the darkness.

Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the NAACP said this week that NAACP is tracing other witnesses in the hope of securing the arrest and conviction of the slayers.

Another Mississippian who knew the Rev. Mr. Lee also left Mississippi. He is the Rev. James H. Hargrove, 54, who said that he left the state after attending the victim's funeral last week.

Describing himself as a solicitor for the NAACP in Mileston, Miss., his hometown, the Rev. Hargrove said he left after a friend told him of overhearing two white men say Hargrove" was likely to follow Rev. Lee if he didn't quit working for the NAACP.

The minister has been having his troubles lately. His credit had been frozen since the first of the year although it had always been good in the past. He said he was burdened with a mortgage covering hidden expenses and cotton ginning services he never received.

In leaving his home, the minister left his wife, Mamie, and ten daughters.

The Rev. Mr. Lee, whose death touched off a chain of events, was active in trying to get Negroes to vote in Belzoni.

Wilkins At Memorial

At a memorial service held in Belzoni on May 22, Roy Wilkins assured 400 Negro leaders from all over the state of continued NAACP support in the fight for the ballot, for justice and for desegregation of the public schools. "We expect to stay in Mississippi for the duration—until victory is won," he said.

Mr. Wilkins lauded the slain [illegible] as a courageous man who fought for equality and first-class citizenship.

The NAACP leader charged, "because he thought he ought to vote just like other Americans. Someone threatened him and told him he should withdraw his name from the registration lists. He refused to do this because he was an American and Americans have the right to vote."

Citing election figures, Mr. Wilkins declared: "In Mississippi there is a real reason for your vote . . . Although there were 710,000 whites of voting age and 497,000 Negroes, only 285,000 votes were cast in the election. How many of these were Negro we don't know, but we do know that Negro registration was only about 20,000. So Negroes had practically no vote of consequence in 1952 and now they are trying to take even that little away from you."

The NAACP spokesman compared a congressional district in Mississippi with one in California, with a total population of 985,000. In the Mississippi district only 51,000 votes were cast in the congressional election of 1952, as compared with 175,000 votes in the California district.

"What does this mean?" he asked. "It means that Mississippi does not have a government system that gives representation to all the people, only to a small part of them. It means that not only Negroes, but tens of thousands of whites are prevented from voting."

Interpreting the death of Rev. Lee as designed to discourage Negro registration and voting, [illegible] persons have joined Mississippi in an all-out registration drive.

In the meantime, the FBI is continuing its investigation of the minister's death.

Grand Jury Fails To Indict Bryant, Milam In Abduction

Commercial Appeal

Decision Frees Pair In 'Wolf-Whistle' Case Of Disappearance Of Chicago Negro, Emmett Till—District Attorney Considers Matter Closed

(Pictures on Page Two)

By HELEN SHEARON

Special to The Commercial Appeal

Memphis

GREENWOOD, Miss., Nov. 9. — The Leflore County Grand Jury Wednesday returned a no true bill after considering kidnap charges against two white men in the Emmett Till case.

The decision released Roy Bryant, 24-year-old Money, Miss., storekeeper, and his 36-year-old half brother, J. W. Milam of Glendora, Miss., of a charge of kidnaping the 14-year-old Chicago Negro, Emmett Louis Till.

Thurs. 11-10-55

The action ended speculation in the "wolf whistle" case which received wide publicity since the two white men were arrested Aug. 28 on kidnap and murder charges.

Have Been Free On Bond

The 20-man, all white jury reported to Circuit Judge Arthur Jordan Wednesday after a three-day session in which they considered 34 cases, returning 27 indictments and seven no true bills.

The Grand Jury could have indicted the two men under one of two Mississippi statutes. One carries a maximum of 10 years on conviction and the other a maximum of death.

Bryant and Milam had been free since Sept. 30 on $10,000 bond each.

They were acquitted of murder charges six weeks ago in a trial in Sumner, Miss.

"As far as I know, the case is closed," said Dist. Atty. Stanny Sanders of Leflore County. "The Leflore County Grand Jury has adjourned and did not return indictments in the Emmett Till case. Beyond that I can make no statement."

Grand Jury Foreman June Broadway, a planter, said he would like to make a statement about the case but "I am sworn to secrecy for six months."

Uncle, Farmhand Testify

Till's uncle, Mose Wright, and another Negro, farmhand Willie Reed, testified before the Grand Jury when it took up the case Tuesday. They were dismissed after giving their testimony.

Wright testified at the murder trial as to the circumstances of Till's abduction by two men he identified as Bryant and Milam while Reed told of seeing a youth resembling Till being taken to a barn and of the sound of blows and hollering from the barn.

But the two men were acquitted of murder and jurymen later said the defense had established doubt as to whether the body taken from the river was Till's. The defendants had admitted after their arrest they took the boy from his uncle's house but said they released him when they found he was not the Negro who had insulted Mrs. Bryant.

Rallies protesting the verdict drew huge crowds in Northern cities.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People labeled Till's death a lynching and called the boy a martyr.

Mississippi's citizens councils, groups dedicated to keeping segregation, and newspapers answered in kind.

They labeled the NAACP a Communist-front group. Some urged Attorney General Herbert Brownell to place the group on the list of subversive organizations.

The jury could indict the two white men under one or two Mississippi kidnap statutes. One provides a death penalty. The other carries a maximum of 10 years in prison.

gation policies.

Many Mississippians, including Gov. Hugh White, had openly expressed their indignation over the crime and demanded swift justice in the case.

Six weeks ago a circuit court jury in Tallahatchie county, just north of Leflore county, had acquitted Bryant and Milam of charges they murdered Till and tossed his battered body in the muddy Tallahatchie River.

The Tallahatchie jury had refused to believe that a body pulled from the river and identified by Till's mother and relatives was that of the Negro boy.

Till had been taken by two white men from the house of his great-uncle, Mose Wright, near Money last Aug. 28. He has not been seen since.

fore the Leflore grand jury when it took up the case yesterday.

Mr. Wright testified at the murder trial as to the circumstances of Emmet's abduction by two men he identified as Mr. Bryant and Mr. Milam. Mr. Reed told of seeing a boy resembling Emmet being taken to a barn from which the sound of blows and "hollering" emerged.

But the two men were acquitted of murder and jurors later said the defense had established doubt as to whether the body taken from the river had been Emmet's. The defendants had admitted after their arrest that they had taken the boy from his uncle's house but had said they had released him when they had found he was not the Negro who had insulted Mrs. Bryant.

Mr. Bryant and Mr. Milam have been free in $10,000 bond each since their acquiteal at the murder trial.

"As far as I know, the case is closed," said District Attorney Stanny Sanders of Leflore County. But there has been speculation that Federal authorities had entered the case to determine if there had violation of Emmet's civil rights. Negro groups have urged the Government to order such an investigation.

June Broadway, grand jury foreman, said he would like to make a statement about the case but "I am sworn to secrecy for six months."

N. A. A. C. P. Not Surprised

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People said yesterday refusal of the grand jury to indict came as no surprise.

Roy Wilkins, N. A. A. C. P. executive secretary, said it was no surprise "to anyone acquainted with the administration of justice in Mississipp."

The queston now arises, he said, since Mr. Bryant and Mr. Milam have been exonerated, of "who did commit the crimes?"

District Attorney Stanny Sanders said the case of the Chicago youth would go before the Leflore county grand jury not later than Wednesday.

The accused white men are J. W. Milam, 36, and Roy Bryant, 24, who were acquitted in September of murdering young Till in a widely-publicized trial at Sumner, Miss.

The body of a youth—shot and weighted down with a heavy cotton gin wheel—was pulled from the Tallahatchie river.

Identifies Body

Till's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley of Chicago, identified the body as her son.

Young Till, visiting his uncle, Mose Wright, near Money, Miss., was abducted after he allegedly whistled at Bryant's pretty, 21-year-old wife, Carolyn, and made improper suggestions to her.

Since the youth was kidnapped in Le Flore county, the two men would be tried there. They are free on bonds of $10,000 each.

Two chief Negro witnesses in the murder trial, Mose Wright, Till's uncle, and Willie Reed, arrived in Greenwood early Monday to appear before the Grand Jury. They have been living in Chicago since the murder trial.

The jury started its sessions by taking up routine, minor cases.

The jury consists of 20 merchants and cotton farmers. A plantation manager, June Broadway, was named foreman of the jury.

He testified at the murder trial that Milam and Bryant came to his home before dawn on a Sunday morning and took his nephew away. He said that was the last time he saw Till alive.

It was Reed who testified at the murder trial that he saw someone who looked like young Till in the back of a pickup truck with three other Negro men a few hours after the youth was abducted.

He said he later saw the truck parked near a barn on a farm operated by Milam's brother, Leslie. "Strange sounds" came from that barn, Reed testified, and he saw a man nearby "who looked like" Milam.

Sheriff George Smith of Le Flore county testified at the trial that Bryant told him he and Milam went to Wright's home and took the boy away, but released him unharmed after Mrs. Bryant failed to identify him as the one who insulted her.

If the grand jury returns indictments, the case would probably be tried in the term of court which

TILL JURY FAILS TO INDICT PAIR

Times-Picayune

Charges Against Bryant, Milam Wiped Out

Thurs. 11-10-55

By W. F. MINOR

(Times-Picayune Staff Correspondent)

GREENWOOD, Miss., Nov. 9—A Leflore county grand jury Wednesday forever closed the door on the spectacular Emmett Till kidnap-murder case and the state's effort to prosecute two white men for the crime.

New Orleans

The 20-man all white investigating body reported to Circuit Judge Arthur Jordan shortly after 3 p. m. Wednesday that it had failed to indict the two men on charges they kidnapped the 14-year-old Chicago Negro from a cotton field shanty.

This wiped out all charges against Roy Bryant, 24-year-old Money, Miss., storekeeper and his half-brother, J. W. Milam, 36, in connection with the widely-publicized race slaying.

'End of Case'

"That's the end of the case as far as this county is concerned," District Attorney Stanny Sanders told reporters shortly after Judge Jordan announced the jury finding.

The grand jury's action left unpunished the crime which has brought national attention upon Mississippi and the South's segre-

TILL GRAND JURY REFUSES TO ACT

Times

Declines to Indict Two White Men Accused of Abducting Boy Who Was Murdered

Thurs. 11-10-55

GREENWOOD, Miss., Nov. 9 (UP)—A Leflore County grand jury refused today to indict two white half-brothers for the kidnapping of Emmett Till, a Chicago Negro boy slain in the notorious "wolf-whistle" case.

"Gentlemen, in the case you are interested in, there was a no bill returned," Circuit Judge Arthur Jordan told reporters after the grand jury submitted its report.

New York

J. W. Milam, 36 years old, and Roy Bryant, 24, the two white men were acquitted of murdering Emmet in neighboring Tallahatchie County, and then accused of kidnapping him in Leflore County, face no further state charges in the case.

Emmet, 14-year-old visitor from Chicago, was abducted from the home of a relative last Aug. 28 after he allegedly had given Mr. Bryant's pretty young wife a "wolf-call" at a country store.

Three days later a body, battered and shot through the head and weighted with a cotton gin fan, was pulled from the Tallahatchie River and identified as Emmet's by his uncle.

The uncle, Moss Wright, and another Negro, Willie Reed, young farm hand, testified be-

Jury to Open Till Probe

Star

Thurs. 11-10-55

GREENWOOD, Miss., Nov. 5 (AP)—Another chapter in the famous Till case begins tomorrow when a grand jury meets to question two white men charged with kidnaping Emmet Louis Till, 14-year-old Negro boy who disappeared while vacationing in Mississippi.

P. 16-C

In Mississippi's most sensational trial six weeks ago at nearby Sumner, a jury took 67 minutes to find the two men not guilty of murdering the boy.

Roy Bryant, 24, and his 36-year-old half-brother, J. W. Milam, have been free on $10,000 bond each since the trial, awaiting action of the Leflore County Grand Jury on the kidnap charge.

The acquittal of Mr. Bryant and Mr. Milam brought a flood of criticism upon Mississippi.

Grand Jury To Consider Till Kidnap Charges

Call

Fri. 11-11-55

P. 1

GREENWOOD, Miss. — (INS)— A Mississippi grand jury which will be asked to indict two half-brothers for the kidnapping of slain 14-year-old Emmett Louis Till began its sessions Monday, Nov. 7.

Kansas City

convenes today and lasts through November.

Fourth District Judge Arthur Jordan will preside.

Mississippi Case Closed

Grand Jury Declines To Indict Two White Men For Kidnaping

GREENWOOD, Miss., Nov. 9 (AP) —A Leflore County grand jury today declined to indict two white men on charges of kidnaping Emmett Louis Till, 14, Chicago Negro.

The decision freed Roy Bryant, 24, and his half brother, J. W. Milam, 36, of all charges in the famous case.

A trial jury in nearby Sumner six weeks ago found the white storekeepers innocent of murdering Till.

Circuit Judge Arthur Jordan announced the grand jury's decision to waiting newsmen after he discharged the 20-man, all white grand jury.

Bryant and Milam reportedly were working in nearby cotton fields and could not be reached immediately for comment.

The grand jury's action canceled the $10,000 bonds each posted for freedom while waiting for a decision in the kidnaping case.

The half brothers were charged in Leflore County with kidnaping last Aug. 28 after Mose Wright, 64, Till's sharecropper uncle, said two white men took Till away for allegedly making obscene remarks to Mrs. Bryant.

A body was found in the Tallahatchie River three days later.

Wright and Till's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley of Chicago, identified it as Till.

But defense attorneys in the murder trial presented three witnesses, including a doctor and an undertaker, who testified that the body had been in the water too long to be Till.

The jury at the Sumner trial didn't hear Mrs. Bryant's testimony about the remarks.

While the jury was out, Mrs. Bryant testified a Negro had walked into the store, at nearby Money, Miss., put his hands on her waist, and asked her for a date.

"I've been with white women before," she quoted the Negro as saying.

She never identified the Negro.

Judge Curtis Swango ruled the testimony inadmissable because he said the incident took place too long before Till's disappearance.

Wright and Willie Reed, 18, were called by the grand jury yesterday.

The other witnesses before the grand jury included Sheriff George Smith and Deputy John Ed Cothran.

Sheriff Smith and his deputy told the murder trial jury that Bryant and Milam admitted taking Till from Wright's farm shack in Money but said they freed him unharmed when they found he was the wrong Negro.

Reed's halting testimony had placed Milam with Till several hours after the two men said they released the boy, who was vacationing in Mississippi when he disappeared.

The two Negroes returned to Mississippi to testify before the grand jury. They went to Chicago after the murder trial because they said they were afraid to remain in Mississippi.

that Bryant, 24, and Milam, 36, admitted taking the boy, but said they let him go when they discovered he was not "the one" who insulted Mrs. Bryant.

Circuit Judge Arthur Jordan indicated if the two are indicted for kidnapping their trial probably would begin here Nov. 21.

The jury did not take up the case until late in the day, disposing of "routine matters" first. The panel was not expected to complete its "full session" until tomorrow.

If true bills are returned in the case, Bryant and Milam will have to be taken into custody before the indictments are made public. They have been free under $10,000 bond each since a few days after the jury in Sumner acquitted them of murder charges.

Four Visit Grand Jury In Till Kidnap Probe

Witnesses At Slaying Trial Heard With Inquiry Carried Over Until Today

GREENWOOD, Miss., Nov. 8 (U.P.)—Four state witnesses in the "Wolf Whistle" murder trial of two white men acquitted of slaying Emmett Till testified today before a grand jury which has been asked to indict them for kidnaping.

Two star Negro witnesses at the Sumner, Miss., trial and Leflore County Sheriff George Smith and Deputy John E. Cothran told the 20-member, all-white jury behind closed doors what they know about the abduction of the 14-year-old Chicago Negro.

Mose Wright testified at Sumner that the defendants, Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam, took Till from his home near here early on the morning of Aug. 28 because he insulted Bryant's pretty young wife at the Bryant store four days earlier

Willie Reed, 18-year-old farm hand who also was a grand jury witness this afternoon, had testified in the murder trial that he saw a boy resembling Till taken into a barn the morning of Aug. 28 and saw Milam emerge from the barn where he heard "hollering."

Smith and Cothran testified

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Emmitt Till case—

Grand Jury indicts two in Mississippi murder

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 6—(AP)—A Grand Jury indicted two white men today on charges of murder and kidnaping in connection with the death of a 14-year-old Chicago Negro.

The Tallahatchie County Grand Jury returned the double indictments against Roy Bryant, 24 and his half brother, J. W. Milam, 36, in the kidnap-slaying of Emmitt Till for allegedly whistling at Bryant's wife.

The abduction occurred Aug. 28 and the body was pulled from the Tallahatchie River three days later.

THE INDICTMENTS APPARENTLY cleared up any doubt as to the identity of the body.

Till allegedly wolf-whistled at Mrs. Bryant in the Bryant store at Money, Miss, near Greenwood.

Till was taken from the home of an uncle, Mose Wright, near Money, which is in LeFlore County.

Bryant and Milam said they freed the youth, but have made no statement since the body was found.

EARLIER THE JURY had called Dr. L. B. Otken, a white physician who had examined the body, and Chester A. Miller, a Negro mortician.

Otken examined the body when it was pulled from the river. Miller works for the Century Burial Assn., which handled the body.

Dist. Atty. Gerald Chatham said Dr. Otken told him he doubted the body could deteriorate as much in three days as the body pulled from the river.

Sheriff H. C. Strider, who testified before the jury in Sumner yesterday, said the body appeared to be that of an older person.

Chatham and Strider are officials of Tallahatchie County, where the body was found.

The body found in the river had been badly cut up or beat up, officers said. There was a bullet hole one inch above the right ear.

FUNERAL SERVICES were scheduled today in Chicago.

The casket was opened to public view at the insistence of Till's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley, 33, against the advice of undertakers.

Thousands of persons jammed the area to view the body. The crush was so great a front window in the home was broken.

Mrs. Bradley said she wanted others to "see what they did to my boy." The funeral services originally were scheduled for Saturday.

The boy's relatives said collections were being taken at the boy's bier and proceeds turned over to the mother. A cousin of the boy declined to say how much had been collected.

The cousin said the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People had been authorized to start a fund raising drive "to aid in bringing Emmett's killers to justice." The NAACP drive has not yet started.

Bryant and Milan are being held in LeFlore County Jail. National Guardsmen and deputies are patrolling the grounds. The extra guard was set up after both Strider and LeFlore County Sheriff George Smith received threats against Bryant and Milam.

Till was taken from the home of an uncle, Mose Wright, near Money, which is in LeFlore County.

GRAND JURY WEIGHS OFFICERS' REPORTS IN DEATH OF YOUTH

Deliberations Will Resume Today In Tallahatchie Abduction Mystery

DELTA AREA IS QUIET

National Guardsmen Patrol Greenwood Jail Sector Where Two White Men Are Held In Negro Case

By WILLIAM SORRELS
Staff Writer

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 5.—The Tallahatchie County Grand Jury Monday heard reports from officers of two counties as it began an investigation of the death of a Negro boy identified as Emmett L. Till of Chicago.

Witnesses before the grand jury included Sheriff George Smith of Leflore County, Deputy Sheriff John Ed Cothran, also of Leflore County, Sheriff H. C. Strider Sr. of Tallahatchie County and Deputy Sheriff Garland Melton of Tallahatchie.

The grand jury recessed at 4 Monday afternoon and will resume deliberations at 10 Tuesday morning.

Body Found In River

Till was taken from the home of his uncle, Mose Wright, at Money the morning of Aug. 28 and a body identified as his was found in the Tallahatchie River last Wednesday.

Two white men, Roy Bryant, storekeeper of Money, and his half-brother, J. W. Milam of Glendora, have been jailed on kidnap charges at Greenwood in the case and the grand jury here has been asked by Dist. Atty. Gerald Chatham to hand down murder indictments.

Jurisdiction in that phase of the case was transferred to Tallahatchie County since the body was found within its boundaries.

Among witnesses scheduled to appear Tuesday are Dr. L. B. Otken, well-known Greenwood physician, who examined the body of the Negro; Mose Wright, Till's uncle, and Simeon Wright, Till's cousin.

Dr. Otken told The Commercial Appeal earlier Monday the victim "was shot back of the right ear" and had been beaten with "some blunt instrument" on the head. He said the body was in no condition for embalming.

Physician Has Doubts

Asked if it was possible that the victim had been in the river only three days, Dr. Otken replied: "There is a great deal of question in my mind."

Sheriff Strider raised that question Saturday when he said he believed the body recovered from the river was not Till's and cited the advanced state of decomposition of the body as one of his reasons.

Wright said he believed the body was that of his nephew and Deputy Cothran said he didn't think "there was any doubt about the identification at the river."

Deputy Melton said, however, the body appeared to have been in the river longer than three days.

A ring bearing the initials "L. T." was found on the body and cousins of Till said it was the ring the Chicago youth had been wearing.

Guardsmen Patrol Area

Meanwhile, in Greenwood, 30 National Guardsmen, walking in pairs, patrolled the area around the Leflore County Courthouse and Jail where the two white men are lodged.

Guards were called out Sunday night on the basis of anonymous telephone tips that out-of-state Negroes planned a demonstration at Greenwood. The night passed peacefully, however, and today also passed quietly.

Defense attorneys said Monday if Bryant and Milam are indicted they will be brought to Tallahatchie County.

Sheriff Strider said the men would be held in the jail at Charleston if they are transferred from Greenwood. He said the jail here is inadequate for a possible lengthy stay. Charleston is 22 miles to the east.

The panel of prospective grand jurors was drawn Aug. 25, a week before the body was recovered from Tallahatchie River. The 18-man jury was selected Monday.

Grand Jurors Listed

Jerry Falls is the foreman. Other members are E. C. Fedric, R. H. Abbey, R. W. Minyard, R. E. Murff, F. B. Winters, Joe Black, Charles Bell, Claude Mullen, Arnold Turner, Joe J. King, H. T. Black, C. V. Dyess, N. T. Caldwell, Roy Kinnard, A. C. Newton, Frank Lance and W. M. Robinson.

Mrs. Roy Bryant, 21-year-old wife of the Money storekeeper, remained in seclusion Monday. Relatives said her two children, Roy Bryant Jr., 3, and Thomas Lamar Bryant, 2, are with her.

Mrs. Bryant is the former Miss Carolyn Holloway of Indianola, Miss.

Mrs. Eula Lee Bryant, her mother-in-law, said, "She went all to pieces after the incident. She has been unable to sleep and has had to take sedatives."

Accused Pair Denies Guilt

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 6 (AP)—Two white men pleaded innocent today when arraigned on indictments charging them with kidnaping and murdering a 14-year-old Negro boy from Chicago who allegedly whistled at a white woman.

Roy Bryant, 24, and J. W. Milam, 35, his half-brother, denied they killed Emmett Louis Till.

Circuit Judge Curtis Swango Jr. said he will set the trial date Thursday morning.

Sheriff H. C. Strider said, "We expect to try them in this term of court." The three-week term began yesterday.

The men did not ask for bond because of the nearness of the trial and were taken to the Tallahatchie County Jail in nearby Charleston.

The Tallahatchie County grand jury, composed of white men, indicted the men on kidnaping and murder charges earlier today.

Murder carries a maximum sentence of death, with a minimum of life in prison. The kidnapping statute under which they were indicted provides a maximum 10-year prison term.

Till's body, a bullet in his head and a 100-pound cotton gin fan tied to his neck to weight him down, was pulled from the Tallahatchie River Wednesday.

The boy was kidnaped three days earlier from his uncle's home where he was spending a planned two-week vacation that ended in death after one week.

Young Till allegedly whistled or made "ugly remarks" to Mrs. Bryant, wife of the Money storekeeper.

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CONFERENCE—Sumner, Miss.—J. W. Milam, 36 (left), and his half-brother, Roy Bryant, 24 (center), confer with one of their lawyers, J. W. Kellum, just before pleading not guilty yesterday to indictments charging they kidnaped and killed Emmett Till, 14-year-old Chicago Negro.—AP Wirephoto.

2 Men Indicted As Negro's Killers

World-Telegram

By the Associated Press.

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 6.—A grand jury today indicted two white men for the wolf-whistle murder of Emmett Till, 14-year-old Chicago Negro.

After hearing evidence for a day and a half, the Tallahatchie County Grand Jury returned a joint indictment against Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam, who admit they kidnaped young Till but deny they killed him.

The boy's body, bludgeoned and shot in the head, was recovered last week from a river near here three days after he disappeared.

Admit Kidnaping.

Bryant and Milam admitted taking Till by gunpoint from the home of Moses Wright, his great uncle, because they thought he was "the one" who had "insulted" Byrant's wife by whistling at her the previous

Tues. 9-6-55

But they said they released him unharmed after deciding he was not "the one."

The two men were arrested last week on kidnaping charges which will be presented to a grand jury in Leflore County, where the kidnaping occurred, in November.

The murder indictments were returned in Tallahatchie County, where Till's body was found.

New York

Death Sentence.

Conviction of murder in Mississippi carries a mandatory penalty of death in the lethal gas chamber unless the trial jury recommends mercy.

There was no indication when Bryant and Milam would be placed on trial for murder. The term of court here will continue for several weeks, but officials mentioned the possibility of a postponement. District Attorney Gerald Chatham, who requested the murder indictments, said the next term of court would convene in March, 1956.

Bryant and Milam were being protected from purported lynch threats in the adjacent Leflore County jail at Greenwood.

By the Associated Press.

CHICAGO, Sept. 6.—Funeral services for Emmett Till were scheduled here today.

Over the weekend, the casket was opened to public view at the insistence of the boy's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley, 33.

Thousands of persons jammed the area to view the body. The crush was so great a front window in the home was broken.

Mrs. Bradley said she wanted others to "see what they did my boy." The funeral service originally were scheduled for Saturday.

Collection at Funeral.

Relatives said collections were being taken at the boy's bier and proceeds turned over to the mother.

A cousin said the National Assn for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) had been authorized to start a fund raising drive "to aid in bringing Emmett's killers to justice."

Trial Due in Three Weeks in Mississippi Race Case

Evening Star

Washington

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 7 (AP)—Two white men who pleaded not guilty to the kidnap-murder of a 14-year-old Chicago Negro are expected to go on trial in the next three weeks.

The men, Roy Bryant, 24, and his half-brother, J. W. Milam, 36, were indicted by an all-white jury yesterday and entered their not guilty pleas shortly afterward.

They were charged with kidnaping and murdering Emmett Louis Till after young Till allegedly whistled at Bryant's attractive wife in their country store in the Money community.

Circuit Judge Curtis Swango, Jr., said he would set the trial date tomorrow. Sheriff H. C. Strider said, "We expect to try them in this term of court." The three-week term began Monday.

Because of the early trial, Bryant and Milam did not seek bond. They were taken to the Tallahatchie County Jail in nearby Charleston.

If convicted, they face a possible death sentence on the murder charge. The minimum sentence is life imprisonment. The kidnap statute under which they were indicted carries a 10-year maximum term.

In Chicago, NAACP Attorney William Huff said he would file $100,000 damage suit against Bryant and Milam "unless the men are given death in the gas chamber."

Evening Star

Young Till's body was found in the Tallahatchie River last Wednesday, three days after he was taken from an uncle's home at Money shortly after the whistling incident. He had been shot and the weighted body dumped into the river. The boy was visiting the uncle for a two-week vacation.

He was buried yesterday in Chicago.

Wed. 9-7-55

Bryant and Milam admitted taking the boy, but said they freed him unharmed.

Mississippi Indicts Two In Death of Negro Boy

Herald Tribune

New York City

By The United Press

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 6.—An eighteen man grand jury indicted two white half-brothers today on charges of murdering a fourteen-year-old Chicago Negro who allegedly whistled at the wife of one of the accused men. Kidnaping as well as murder was charged in the indictment.

New York

Wed 9-7-55

Roy Bryant, thirty, and J. W. Milam, thirty-six, were indicted both jointly and separately for the kidnap-murder of Emmett Louis Till. They were to be arraigned a few hours after the indictment was read in Tallahatchie County Circuit Court. A defense attorney indicated he would ask for a trial date to be set as soon as possible.

The defendants admitted taking Emmett from the home of his uncle in the Money community north of Greenwood Aug. 28. But they said they let him go when Mrs. Bryant said he was not the Negro who insulted her in the Bryant store.

Bryant and Milam were moved secretly from the Leflore County jail at Greenwood last night and jailed at Vicksburg, Miss., until time for their arraignment. National Guardsmen who had been called out to protect the defendants from purported threats of violence left the jail early today.

Leflore County Sheriff George Smith said he would file a retainer on the prisoners on kidnaping charges in the event they are acquitted in the adjoining county where the murder is believed to have occurred.

District Attorney Gerald Chatham asked for the murder indictment even though there was a disagreement between authorities as to whether the

body fished from the river and viewed by thousands before its burial in Chicago was that of young Emmett.

Tallahatchie County Sheriff H. C. Strider and D. L. B. Otken, who examined the body, said they thought decomposition of the body was too advanced to be that of Emmett. But other officers who aided in the investigation said there was no doubt about it being Emmett's body.

Sheriff Strider said even though the men were indicted the evidence against them was mostly circumstantial.

Meanwhile, in Milwaukee, the National Urban League termed the murder a "lynching" which "hits all America between the eyes."

Wed 9-7-55

At its annual convention the league, an organization devoted to better race relations, said its previous optimism about progress in interracial affairs "has been blasted" by Emmett's death.

The "atrocity," it said, has been "compounded by a tragically irresponsible attitude of substantial elements of the state and its leaders."

The slain boy was buried in a Chicago suburb today with hundreds of mourners joining his family. His body had been on view since Friday. The youth's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley, broke down in tears at the funeral.

8856

Prosecution in 'Wolf Whistle' Trial Wins Recess for 'New Witnesses'

Constitution
Atlanta, Ga.
9-21-55

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 20—The trial of two Mississippi white men accused of murdering a 14-year-old Chicago Negro was recessed abruptly today to allow prosecuting attorneys to examine new witnesses of "major importance."

This surprising turn in the case was disclosed dramatically in a crowded courtroom a few minutes before the trial jury was scheduled to hear the state's first witness against Roy Bryant, 24, and his half-brother, J. W. Milam, 36, the defendants.

Over the vigorous objections of defense counsel, Circuit Judge Curtis M. Swango ruled that the prosecution's request for a recess was "reasonable" and directed that the trial be resumed at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

Judge Swango then granted the request of defense counsel that there be "no secret subpoenas" in connection with the examination of the new state witnesses. The court stipulated that the prosecution must furnish defense lawyers with the names of all new witnesses for whom subpoenas would be issued.

There were widely circulated rumors in this county seat town of Tallahatchie County that the new witnesses might have testimony bearing on the controversial subject of where the alleged killing took place.

The victim, Emmett Louis Till, who reportedly "wolf whistled" at Bryant's 21-year-old wife in a country store in Money, Miss., was forcibly seized from his uncle's home in LeFlore County on Aug. 28. Four days later his body, bludgeoned and shot in the head, was found in the Tallahatchie River.

Local officials have said that there was no definite scene fixed for the actual killing of the Negro youth, and Tallahatchie County eventually claimed jurisdiction of the crime because of the fact that the dead body was taken from the river where it winds through that county.

There were rumors also that the new witnesses were Negro field hands from Sunflower County, which borders Tallahatchie, who possibly could give evidence concerning the killing itself. There have been frequent reports that "others" participated in the alleged kidnaping and have since been missing from their homes.

Evidence that pin-pointed the scene of the crime would perhaps confront the court and prosecuting officials with a legal problem involving a change of venue and possibly call for transfer of the trial from Tallahatchie to some other county.

EXPLAINS REQUEST

Gerald Chatham, prosecuting attorney for the circuit court district and one of three attorneys handling the state's case in the murder trial, made the formal request to the court for a day's recess.

"We have been advised of witnesses who have not heretofore appeared before the grand jury that returned the indictment in this case," Chatham told the court.

"We believe these witnesses are of major importance," he said, "and we request a recess in which to allow the prosecution to subpoena these additional witnesses and to examine them before continuing with this trial."

OBJECTS TO DELAY

J. J. Breland, one of the five attorneys representing the defendants, objected to the delay of the trial session, declaring that there were enough witnesses already available to the state to begin the taking of testimony in the presence of the trial jury.

The trial session opened its second day at 9:30 a.m. with 10 jurors who had been selected at yesterday's session. In 45 minutes, two more jurors were chosen from seven veniremen examined by the attorneys for both sides, and a few minutes later an alternate juror was named.

The completed jury includes nine farmers, a retired carpenter, an insurance man and a dragline operator. The alternate juror is a carpenter. Their ages were not given during the selection procedure, but they appeared to range from 30 to 60 years old.

ORDER OF WITNESSES

At 11 a.m., the prosecution attorneys requested that court be recessed for one hour to allow them to decide on the order in which to call the state's witnesses. Judge Swango granted the request and extended the time until 1:30 p.m. to include lunch.

In the morning session the highlights were the appearance, separately, of Mrs. Mamie Bradley of Chicago, mother of the slain youth, and a Negro congressman, Rep. Charles Digges (D-Mich).

Digges said he was attending the trial as an "interested observer."

Mrs. Bradley and Digges took seats at the Negro press table.

Jury Barred As Wife Tells Of Wolf Call

Constitution
Atlanta, Ga.
9-23-55

By JOHN N. POPHAM
The New York Times News Service

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 22—The State of Mississippi's case against two white men being tried on charges they kidnaped and murdered Emmett Louis Till, 14-year-old Chicago Negro, was completed today.

The closing testimony of the prosecution's witnesses reached a dramatic climax as three Negroes from a cotton plantation area gave evidence that pointed to the likely scene of the killing, one of them putting Emmett and the defendant, J. W. Milam, 36, in the vicinity.

A second item of tense drama gripped the crowded Tallahatchie County courtroom a few moments later when Circuit Judge Curtis M. Swango ruled that the jury could not hear the story of Mrs. Carolyn Bryant, 21-year-old wife of the other defendant, Roy Bryant, 24, a half-brother to Milam, Judge Swango's decision was made from the bench after Mrs. Bryant had been permitted to testify in the absence of the jury that young Till, a week before his dead body was found, had embraced her and asked for "a date" while they were alone in a country store.

Constitution

The prosecution successfully blocked presentation to the jury of Mrs. Bryant's testimony over vigorous debate by defense counsel. During the arguments, special prosecutor Robert B. Smith III declared, "Whatever happened there in the store is no justification for this murder and has no relevancy to the case that is on trial here."

The five defense attorneys, led by C. Sidney Carlton and J. J. Breland, argued before the court that a state witness had testified that Milam forcibly seized Emmett after saying "I want the boy who dirty-talked at the store." The lawyers maintained that this store incident was a necessary item of background and established a continuity of action that Milam was entitled to "explore."

JUDGE'S RULING

Judge Swango declared that as he interpreted the law of evidence in Mississippi, testimony concerning an incident prior to the main crime in a capital case was admissible only if it dealt with the question of whether the deceased or the defendant was the aggressor or whether it concerned an overt act. Such was not the situation in the evidence before him, he held.

Smith and the lawers associated with him in the prosecution, Gerald Chatham, circuit district attorney, and Hamilton Caldwell, Tallahatchie attorney, have impressed observers at the trial with the vigor and skill with which they have handled the state's case.

They had withheld some testimony, largely repetitious of earlier evidence, to prepare a record that would hold off the attempt of defense counsel to get Mrs. Bryant's story to the jury.

"SURPRISE" WITNESS

Willie Reed, a 19-year-old Negro student in the 9th grade, was the "surprise" witness of the prosecution's case. He was one of five "new witnesses" whose discovery on Tuesday resulted in an abrupt recess of the trial for one day. Three of the "new witnesses" gave testimony in court.

Reed, obviously under great strain and speaking so softly that he had to be told repeatedly by Judge Swango to lift his voice, swore that on the morning of the kidnaping he saw a boy, whom he recognized later from a photograph as Emmett Till, in the company of six men in a pickup truck driving along a country road in near-by Sunflower Country.

Reed said that a few minutes later he passed a red barn on the property operated by Leslie Milam, brother of the defendant Milam, and saw the same pickup truck parked near the barn. He said that no one was in the truck, that he heared some shouts of "oh, oh," from the barn, heard the sound of "some licks" and saw the defendant Milam, wearing a pistol, walk from the barn to a nearby well and get a drink of water.

Moses Wright, 64-year-old Negro sharecropper and grand uncle of Emmett, yesterday identified Milam and Bryant as two of three men who came to Wright's home on Aug. 28 in pre-dawn hours and kidnaped Emmett. Wright said that Milam at the time carried a pistol and a flashlight in his hands.

Reed said he had seen the defendant Milam three or four times before the kidnaping.

Defense counsel asked that Reed's testimony be excluded in the case of Bryant since that defendant was not named by Reed. Smith replied that since the defendants had chosen to stand trial together the proof would have to apply to both, and Judge Swango upheld the prosecutor.

Judge Swango denied requests of defense counsel for directed verdicts of acquittal, the court ruling that "the record as a whole presents issues for determination of a jury."

Earlier in the day the prosecution called Emmett's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley, 33, Chicago, to the witness stand and she stoutly maintained that the dead body sent to her was that of her son. Emmett's body, bludgeoned and shot in the head, was found in the Tallahatchie River on Aug. 31.

Mrs. Bryant was the first witness called by the defense.

Mrs. Bryant said that on Aug. 24 at about 8 p.m. a Negro with

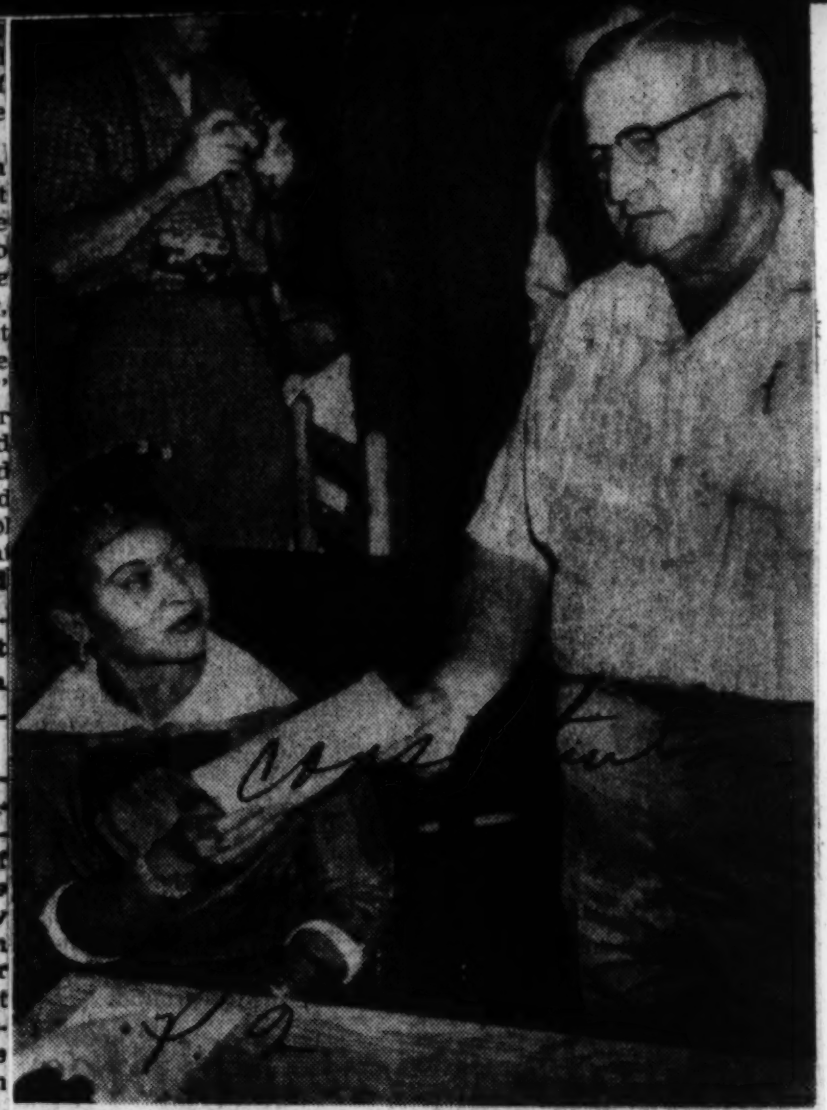
a "Northern brogue" came into the store owned by her husband at the nearby community of Money, in neighboring Leflore County.

She said the Negro made a purchase and when she held out her hand for the money he grabbed her hand and she had to tug to get free. She said he followed her to the cash register, grabbed her around the waist and said "how about a date, I've been with white women before."

Mrs. Bryant said that another Negro came into the store and took Emmett by the arm and dragged him outside. She said she went outside to get a pistol from an automobile and that Emmett was on the porch and that he "wolf-whistled" at her. She said that during the incident inside the store, Emmett used a word too obsence for her to repeat in the courtroom.

The defense called as witnesses, Dr. L. D. Odken, Greenwood; H. D. Malone, an embalmer of Cleveland, and Sheriff H. C. Strider of Tallahatchie County. All testified that they viewed the body recovered from the river three days after Emmett was kidnaped and that in their opinion the body appeared to be decomposed to the extent that it would have been in the water from 10 to 15 days.

The trial was adjourned until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow.



Associated Press Wirephoto

SUBPOENA IS SERVED ON MOTHER OF SLAIN BOY

Sheriff H. C. Strider Hands Papers to Mamie Bradley

Trial Will Begin Monday in Murder of Chicago Boy

Times-Picayune
Sun-9-18-55

'No Incidents' Expected by County Sheriff

By SAM JOHNSON

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 17 (AP)—A sensational trial rattles the quiet routine of this little farm town Monday when two white men face charges of murdering a Negro boy who whistled at a white woman.

National attention centers on the dusty town built around the traditional Courthouse Square, half a mile from a main highway. It centers on a county where Negroes outnumber whites 5-1.

The slaying of 14-year-old Emmett Louis Till of Chicago brought a cloudburst of protest from other states.

Despite the state's taut race relations, Sheriff H. C. Strider said he expects no incident. He took off for a weekend trip to Atlanta and the Mississippi-Georgia football game.

There has been no repetition of the rumors of invading Chicago Negroes and threatening telephone calls which brought out the National Guard in Greenwood when the two accused men were in jail there two weeks ago.

The trial begins three weeks and two days after Till's body, a bullet hole in his head and a weight around his neck, was pulled from the muddy Tallahatchie River. The scene was one-fourth of a mile inside Tallahatchie County.

The boy, visiting a tenant farmer uncle reportedly whistled at the wife of a store keeper in Money, a tiny community in neighboring Leflore County and reports said he also made some "ugly remarks."

The climax of the explosive case begins with selection of an all-white jury at 9 a.m. (CST) in the little courtroom of an old, grey brick courthouse. No Negroes will serve on the jury. None was listed on the special 125-man jury panel drawn for the trial. That's customary in Tallahatchie County.

Women do not serve on Mississippi juries.

The state will try to convince the jury "beyond all reasonable doubt and to a moral certainty" that Roy Bryant, 24, and his half brother, 35-year-old J. W. Milam, killed the lad.

The accused men admitted taking Till from his uncle's home, officers said, but said they released him unharmed when Mrs. Bryant said he was not the boy who whistled at her.

The men pleaded innocent to the murder indictment. They also face a kidnaping indictment in Tallahatchie County and a kidnaping charge in adjoining Leflore County where Till was abducted.

District Attorney Gerald Chatham has refused to say whether he will ask for the death penalty. Defense attorneys expect him to.

Should Answer Question

Chatham's questioning of prospective jurors should answer the question. The minimum penalty for murder is life imprisonment. The maximum penalty for kidnaping is 10 years imprisonment.

To gain a conviction, the state must fill in details of a period from 2:30 a.m. on a hot summer Sunday when Till was taken, until late afternoon of that same day when Bryant was arrested by Sheriff George Smith of Leflore County. Smith arrested Milam the next day.

Officers reportedly have not found the murder gun, or the spot where Till was slain. If they have witnesses to any events after Till's abduction, they are keeping them secret.

Some doubt has been expressed about identification of the body found in the river. Sheriff Strider doubts it was Till. The boy's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley of Chicago, says it was "beyond all shadow of a doubt."

The boy's mother, fearing violence, kept secret her plans for traveling to the trial "as quietly as I can get there." She agreed to testify after days of waivering.

"I would just as soon not have too many people meeting me. There's no way to tell whether they are friends or foes."

She scheduled a Sunday appearance at a Cleveland rally of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People before going to Sumner.

Death Called 'Lynching'

The NAACP called Till's death a lynching, the first in the United States since 1951. NAACP Executive Secretary Roy Wilkins said Mississippi is willing to keep segregation even "by murdering children."

The state's newspapers replied to that. They condemned the killing and the NAACP's activities in the same breath.

County officers expect a speedy trial. "It'll be over by Wednesday, maybe Tuesday night," one said and asked to remain anonymous. That would mean three days for jury selection, testimony, argudict.

The official said the state seems to have little evidence.

Bryant and Milam will stand trial together. "It's all right with us," said defense attorney J. J. Breland. "The facts are the same."

Defense attorneys — all five of Sumner's lawyers — did not ask for separate trials.

Opposed by five lawyers, District Attorney Chatham asked for help. Atty. Gen. J. P. Coleman, governor-nominee, appointed a former FBI agent, Robert B. Smith III of Ripley, a special assistant attorney general to help Chatham.

White citizens of Tallahatchie County started a fund to pay the five defense lawyers.

Tallahatchie and Leflore counties are in the rich agricultural Delta. The land is level, almost like a western plain, but broken by trees, rivers and bayous.

Cotton 'Still King'

Cotton is still king, resisting advances of livestock, rice and industry. The summer sun has popped open millions of cotton bolls and field hands are picking the crop.

The little community of Money—about 100 persons—is 10 miles north of Greenwood in Leflore County. A gravel road winds another 15 miles north to the death site in Tallahatchie County. Gravel roads intersect the southern part of Tallahatchie County, forced into winding routes by the twists and turns of the river and its tributaries.

The state must prove that the Circuit Court in Sumner, in the county's second judicial district, has jurisdiction of the case.

Despite failure to find the spot where Till was murdered, the state may get help from a law which says in part:

". . . But, if on the trial the evidence makes it doubtful in which of several counties or judicial districts . . . including that in which the indictment or affidavit alleges it, the offense was committed, such doubts will not avail to procure the acquittal of the defendant."

The jury can return four verdicts on the murder indictment:

1. Acquittal.
2. Guilty as charged, which makes a death sentence mandatory.
3. Guilty with a sentence of life imprisonment.
4. Guilty with disagreement on the penalty. In this case the judge must set a life sentence.

'Body Too Decomposed'

Local citizens are still asking the question:

Was it Till's body that was pulled from the muddy river?

Sheriff Strider said he believed the body was too decomposed to have been in water only three days, the time between Till's disappearance and discovery of the body. And it looked like the body of a mature man, not a 14-year-old boy, the sheriff said.

Mrs. Bradley said she was "sure beyond the shadow of a doubt" that it was her son whose body arrived in Chicago for burial. The boy's uncle, tenant farmer Mose Wright, was sure.

Leflore county officers thought the question was settled.

A woman who works in the Tallahatchie County Court House said many local people "have suspicions about whether it was his body."

She said these people ask: What was a Chicago Negro boy doing in Money? They seem suspicious, she said.

Wright said he brought Till and a cousin for a two-week visit on the farm after he made a trip to Chicago to attend a funeral.

Till and his four cousins made a Saturday night trip Aug. 27 to Bryant's small store in Money for bubble gum. A cousin said Till whistled at Mrs. Bryant as he left the store.

TRIAL SET TODAY IN TILL MURDER

Times-Picayune
Mon-9-19-55
P-1

All-Male Jury Will Listen To Testimony In Case

By ARTHUR EVERETT

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 18 (AP)—By the scant margin of five minutes, 14-year-old Emmett "Bo-Bo" Till kept a rendezvous with destiny last month.

Monday his date with death is scheduled to erupt into the Mississippi Delta's most widely publicized court trial in years.

Young Till, a South Side Chicago Negro, was kidnaped from the unpainted cottonfield shack of his great-uncle Aug. 28. Three days earlier, he had allegedly made offensive remarks and "wolf-whistled" at a pretty brunette wife of a country storekeeper in nearby Money, Miss.

It is a tiny crossroads settlement of five stores, one gas station, a weathered one-story post office and a cotton gin.

The storekeeper, Roy Bryant, 24, and his half-brother, J. W. Milam, 35, go on trial at 9 a. m. (CST) Monday. They are charged with murdering young Till and legally they will be on trial for their lives. Till's body, nude, weighted and shot, was taken Aug. 31 out of the Tallahatchie river, a chocolate-brown stream that meanders through the Delta county, east of the Mississippi river.

Men Plead Innocent

Both men have pleaded innocent. Authorities say they have admitted taking the Till boy from the house but they insist they released him unharmed. The trial is expected to last only a few days.

The dead boy's great-uncle, Mose Wright, told reporters Sunday how young Till nearly missed the train that brought him to Money and to his death.

Wright, visiting in Chicago last August, agreed to bring the boy back with him for a two-week vacation. Wright boarded an Illinois Central train at Chicago's 12th Street station. The Till boy caught the same train by arrangement at the 63rd Street station.

Times-Picayune
P-2

"He like to got left," Wright recalled. "If he'd been five minutes later he'd have missed it."

Wright, the state's prospective star witness in the trial, is a lean man of medium height. He looks younger than his 64 years. In faded blue trousers held by yellow straps and in a khaki shirt, he was napping on the front porch swing of his six-room shack when reporters aroused him Sunday.

Recalls Incident

In his stocking feet, the Delta-born Negro sharecropper recalled in vivid detail the arrival of the Till boy's kidnapers at 2:30 a. m. the morning of Aug. 28.

He said the men pounded on the door of his shack, and called for him by the nickname, "Preacher," which carries no particular significance.

"Who is that?" Wright answered.

He claims one of the men at the door identified himself as one of the defendants and demanded to "talk to you and the boy."

Wright said he went to the door and was confronted by three men, one of the men with a pistol in one hand and a flashlight in the other.

"Ain't you got two boys here from Chicago?" Wright quoted the men as demanding. Besides Till, Wright's grandson also was visiting him from Chicago at the time.

"Yes sir, I sure have," was Wright's reply.

"I want that boy that did the talk at Money," one of the men reportedly declared.

'Ugly Remarks'

Wright said he heard of the incident in which his nephew made the "ugly remarks" to Mrs. Bryant and climaxed them with a wolf-whistle. The sharecropper said he asked the man not to take the boy out of the shack, and that his wife offered the intruders money if they would leave.

"This boy ain't got good sense," Wright said he pleaded. Actually, he regarded the Till boy as normally intelligent but the boy stuttered and Wright based his plea on this speech defect.

"If this is not the right boy," Wright said the men assured him, "we gonna bring him back and

put him in the bed."

Wright claimed, after the men roused the Till boy from sleep and took him outside, he heard the men talk to a fourth person in a car and ask if this was "the right boy." The answering voice assured the men he was.

Wright thinks it was a woman's voice but he says he isn't sure. The state is expected to try to prove the woman in the car was Mrs. Bryant, a 27-year-old Mississippi-born girl with dark good looks inherited from Italian-born ancestors. She is the mother of two young boys.

Body Weighted

As far as the state has revealed, nobody but the slayers saw young Till again until his body was fished from the Tallahatchie river about 15 miles from Money on Aug. 31. The body bore a bullet wound and disfiguring marks on the head. It was weighted with a 100-pound cotton gin exhaust fan which had failed to keep it on the bottom.

Although Mose Wright mentioned three men, only two have been indicted for the slaying. Technically, both men can draw the death penalty in Mississippi's gas chamber if convicted. Rarely, if ever, has Mississippi put a white man to death for the slaying of a Negro.

However, defense lawyer Sidney Carlton says the trial itself is not unusual. He claims it has been a precedent in Mississippi law. He expects it to last no longer than three days.

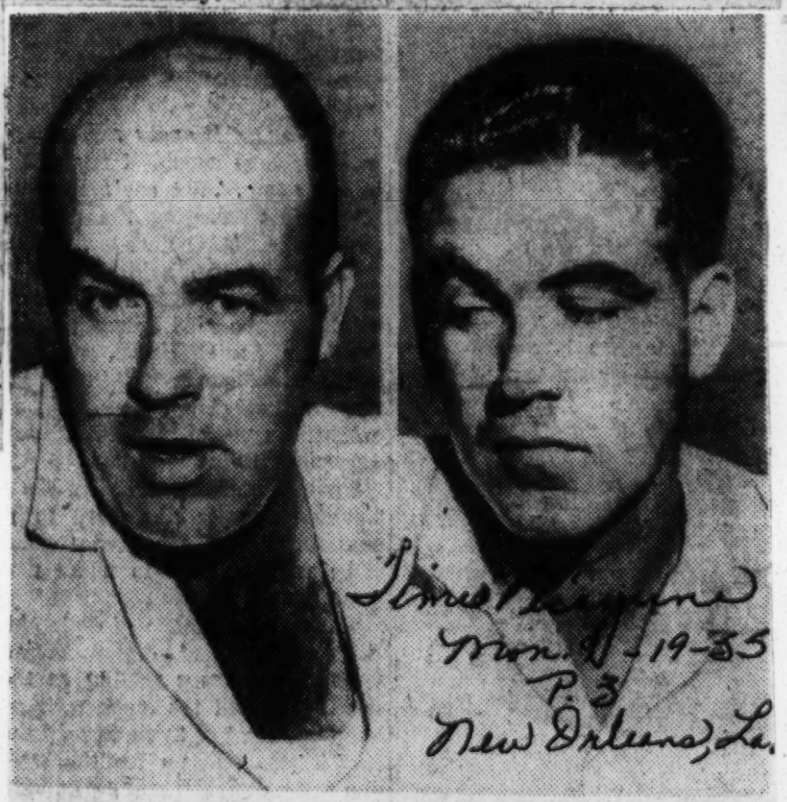
FERTILIZER PRODUCTION

The first fertilizer plant in The Netherlands, established 25 years ago, today has a production capacity of 700,000 tons of nitrogen fertilizers annually.



—Photo by INS.

ROY BRYANT kisses his wife, Carolyn, in Sumner, Miss., as he was reunited with her and their two sons, Lamar, 2, and Roy Jr., for the first time since his arrest in connection with the slaying of Emmett Till. Till, a Negro boy visitor from Illinois, was kidnaped and later found shot to death after he allegedly "wolf whistled" at Mrs. Bryant. Bryant and his half-brother, J. W. Milam, are scheduled to go on trial for murder Monday.



—WIREPHOTOS by The Associated Press.

J. W. MILAM (LEFT) AND ROY BRYANT
Defendants in murder trial.



SUMNER COURTHOUSE, SCENE OF TRIAL

Packed Court Causes Delay

By ARTHUR EVERETT

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 20 (AP)—A jam-packed trial of two white men accused of slaying a Chicago Negro boy was called off today until 9 a.m. tomorrow.

The judge recessed the trial after the district attorney asked more time to question prospective new jurors.

The judge said the request was reasonable and added, as further reason for adjournment, his courtroom had become a fire trap through overcrowding.

Courtroom Firetraps

"If fire develops any place in this courthouse, great tragedy will take place," said Circuit Judge Curtis Swango Jr. as he recessed the trial moments after the afternoon session opened.

More than 400 Mississippi Delta residents had crowded into the humid room. They stood in aisles or sat in the 280 seats in quiet anticipation of the opening of state testimony against Roy Bryant, 24, and his half-brother, J. W. Milam.

The two men are accused of the kidnap-killing of Emmett Louis (Bobo) Till, 14, who allegedly wolf-whistled at Bryant's wife.

Earlier, a defense spokesman said an attempt would be made to show that Till assaulted Mrs. Bryant, Aug. 24. He explained "assault" was used in the legal sense which implies any untoward incident such as indecent advances but did not imply actual physical attack or rape.

At the end of the morning session, a jury had been picked and witnesses sworn in. The state appeared ready to begin testimony. By the time for the court's afternoon opening, there were more people in and around the courthouse than there normally are in the entire town, which has a population of 550.

Dist. Atty. Gerald Chatham opened the afternoon session with a request for an overnight adjournment. He said he had come across new prospective state witnesses. He asked for time to talk to them.

"They might be witnesses of major importance," he told reporters later. He would not identify them until he had them under subpoena, he added.

The defense objected to the delay but Judge Swango called the state's request for more time reasonable. He pointed to the obvious fire hazard in the room as "further reason" for the adjournment.

"This is not in the best interests of the people who are here," the judge said of the overcrowding.

The state originally listed 13 witnesses against Bryant and Milam —nine white witnesses and four Negroes.

One of these was a neatly dressed little 12-year-old Negro boy, Simeon Wright.

He was sworn in with his father, sharecropper Mose Wright, 64.

The defense in turn listed by name nine witnesses of its own in its attempt to clear Bryant and Milam of the murder charge. Both defendants have pleaded innocent.

Till's body was found in the Tallahatchie River near Money, Aug. 31, after he allegedly acted indecently and whistled at Bryant's pretty 21-year-old wife, Carolyn.

Kidnapped Aug. 28

Young Till had been kidnaped from the Wright's cottonfield shack Aug. 28, three days after the incident involving Mrs. Bryant.

Mrs. Bryant is the chief witness for the defense. Her two small boys have been with their father during the court sessions. So have Milam's two little sons.

Dist. Atty. Gerald Chatham is not asking the death penalty, which is the maximum in Mississippi for murder. He is asking life imprisonment.

An all-white, all-male jury of 12 shirt-sleeved Mississippi Delta residents was completed shortly before the noon recess in the second day of the trial. The 13th alternate juror, a carpenter, was added to the panel in case of illness or death.

All swore in turn that they would banish from their minds any racial prejudice because the murder victim happened to be a Negro.

Nine of the jurors are cotton farmers, their faces and necks deeply tanned by the broiling sun. It has made an oven of the second-floor courtroom where the trial has drawn an overflow of spectators.

No Women Jurors

One juror is a carpenter, one is a retired carpenter and one is an insurance man. Women do not serve on Mississippi juries.

The jurors range in age from 28 to 74. Most of them are in or near middle age. There is one bachelor. The rest are married and fathers.

Young Till reportedly made indecent advances to Mrs. Bryant while she was alone in the Bryant grocery Aug. 24.

Three days later, the boy was abducted from his uncle's shack in the dead of night. Till was on a two-weeks vacation with his uncle.

Wright claims he can identify at least one of the kidnapers. A fisherman found the boy's nude, weighted and shot body three days later in the chocolate-brown waters of the Tallahatchie, a lazy cypress-lined river that winds through this delta area.

Bryant and Milam are said by authorities to have admitted taking Till from his uncle's cottonfield shack but they are quoted as saying they later released him unharmed.

Several Hundred Attend

Several hundred persons packed the large Tallahatchie County Courtroom on the second day of the trial. Circuit Judge Curtis Swango Jr. forced a clearing of the aisle when the crowd became a definite fire hazard. Smoking is permitted in the courtroom.

The audience, about three-fourths white, has been orderly, quiet and attentive. The arrival of Mrs. Mamie Bradley, 33-year-old mother of the slain boy, caused a ripple of excitement but nothing remotely resembling a demonstration.

She got in from Chicago this morning to testify for the state. She had expressed some fear of coming to Mississippi but once here she admitted nobody had caused her any trouble.

Also arriving was a Negro congressman — Rep. Charles C. Diggs Jr. (D-Mich). He said he came as a private citizen and an observer. He would not say whether he would report his observations later in Congress.

Diggs With Negroes

Judge Swango arranged for Diggs to sit with Negro newspaper reporters at a special press table. Chatham had a clerk call his list of 13 witnesses. Eleven responded, were sworn in and closeted in a room next to the courtroom to ait their turn on the stand. The other two were available.

The defense then listed the witnesses it wanted sworn. Besides six state witnesses which the state said it will call, the list included the wives of both defendants and Bryant's mother.

Also on call are character witnesses and probably pathologists and other medical witnesses. The defense is going to make the state prove it was the Till boy's body that was found in the river by a teen-age fisherman.

The medical testimony is part of this stage of the case.

Failure to include the names of the two defendants, the defense said, does not preclude their being called. However, while the defense has not finally committed itself, Bryant and Milam are not expected to take the stand.

Throughout the two days of the trial, Negroes and whites who can not find space in the courtroom have lounged quietly in front of the 45-year-old gray-brick courtroom. Today, among about 100 outside, were 10 Negroes sitting at the base of a Confederate monument to Sumner's Civil War dead.

Sumner is about 30 miles from Money where the kidnaping occurred.

Apparently by design, the jurymen selected all come from sections of the county relatively remote from Money and Sumner.

JURY MEMBERS in the Sumner, Miss., trial of two white men for the slaying of a Negro boy, Emmet Till, walk from the courtroom to

Prosecutor In Till Case Points Out Legal Flaws

By ART EVERETT

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 19 (AP) Two white men — accused of killing a wolf-whistling Negro boy— went on trial in a steamy Mississippi Delta courtroom today, their 2-year-old boys in their laps.

Flanking each man a few feet from the judge's bench was another slightly older son.

The thin wails of the youngsters, or their childish laughter, cut across the routine hum of court proceedings in the most sensational Delta trial in many years.

Accused Of Killing

Their fathers, Roy Bryant, 24-year-old cotton country grocery keeper; and his half brother, J. W. Milam, 36, are accused of the kidnap slaying of 14-year-old Emmett (Bo-Bo) Till, a South Side Chicago Negro boy. He was vacationing in Mississippi last month and was slain after he allegedly made offensive remarks and wolf-whistled at Bryant's attractive 21-year-old wife, Carolyn.

Both defendants have pleaded innocent.

Both Mrs. Byant and 27-year-old Juanita Milam were in court with their husbands and the youngsters.

As the state and the defense went to work picking an all-white, all-male jury for the murder tial, Dist. Atty. Gerald Chatham emphasized he is not asking for the death penalty.

Said the prosecutor: "The state will not ask for the infliction of the death penalty since a substantial part of the state's evidence is circumstantial evidence."

Bryant, a handsome bushy-haired man, and Milam, taller, stockier and nearly bald, sat out tedious trial preliminaries across the street from the 45-year-old gray brick courthouse. They were in the custody of their lawyers and not guarded.

When Circuit Judge Curtis Swango Jr., banged the gavel for the

formal beginning of jury picking, Bryant and Milam walked into the courtroom. Each carried his 2-year-old son and each had an older boy by the hand. Bryant's older boy is 3, Milam's 4.

Mississippians said it is not unusual for a defendant to bring in a small child. In many parts of the country it is unprecedented.

The two sets of little boys, each one a handsome little tyke, listened attentively at first to court routine. Eventually they grew restless, gurgling, laughing and occasionally crying. Bryant gave his younger boy candy mints to quiet him. Milam tried the same with chewing

Staying In Money

When he was kidnaped last Aug. 28, young Till was staying with his great-uncle, 64-year-old Mose Wright, a Negro sharecropper in Money, Miss., about 30 miles from here.

Wright claims three white men pounded on his door and, over his protests, took away "the boy from Chicago who did the talk at Money."

Wright is scheduled as the state's star witness against the two defendants. He claims he can identify one of them as a member of the kidnap group. There are only two defendants and his story of a third man has never been explained.

Young Till reportedly went into the white-and-green-fronted Bryant grocery less than three miles from Wright's cotton field shack and insulted Mrs. Bryant. He climaxed his visit with a wolf-whistle at the slender, attractive brunette.

Body Found

Three days later on Aug. 31, a body identified by the state as Till's was taken out of the Tallahatchie river three miles from Money. The head was beaten and bore a bullet wound. The body was weighted down by a 100-pound cotton gin exhaust fan.

The defense has said it will make the state prove the body was Till's. It reportedly was decomposed.

Rarely, if ever, has a white man been executed in a Mississippi case involving a Negro slaying. And Chatham made it plain he is not asking the cotton farmers who make up the bulk of any jury here to shatter precedent.

As Chatham explained it, there are four possible verdicts:

If the defendants are found guilty as charged, it becomes mandatory on the court to send them to the Mississippi gas chamber. Chatham is not asking such a verdict.

If the jury finds them guilty but disagrees as to the punishment, life imprisonment is the legal penalty.

Or the jury can find the pair guilty and specify in its verdict that the penalty shall be life.

Or, the jury can acquit the men.

Lawyers on both sides do not expect the trial to run beyond Wednesday.

The temperature mounted into the high 80s today as the mist lifted from the cotton fields and court got under way.



8859

2 Freed Of Till Kidnap Charges

Daily World P. 1
Atlanta Ga. Thurs 11-10-55

GREENWOOD, Miss. — (INS) — A Mississippi Grand Jury cleared two white men Wednesday of charges of kidnapping Emmett Till, a 14-year-old Chicago Negro boy.

The 20-member, all white grand jury returned a "No Bill" late Wednesday at Greenwood on the kidnap charges that were place against J. W. Milam, 36, and his half-brother, Roy Bryant, 24.

That was the last chance that had remained against the men who were acquitted of murdering young Till at a trial in neighboring Tallahatchie County in September.

The LeFlore County Grand Jury heard testimony from four witnesses before announcing its "No Bill" decision to Circuit Court Judge Arthur Jordan.

The witnesses were Sheriff George Smith, Deputy Sheriff E. Cothern, Willie Reed, an 18 year-old youth, and Mose Wright, Till's great uncle from whose home the boy was abducted on the morning of August 28.

Wright testified at the murder trial that Bryant and Milam came to his house and took Till away at gun point. That was the last time he saw his nephew alive.

Smith told the murder trial jury that Bryant admitted that he and Milam took the boy from the house, but that they released him unharmed a short time later.

Reed testified at the murder trial that he saw someone resembling Till in the back of a pickup truck with three other Negroes the day of the youth's disappearance. He said he later saw the truck parked near a barn on a farm operated by Milam's brother, Leslie. He related that he heard "hollering" coming from the barn and saw a man who looked like J. W. Milam nearby.

More About Till Case

Marshall May Give Data on Kidnap-Killing

Dispatch
Thurs 11-10-55
P. 1

Emmett Till was not killed "because somebody didn't like him," Thurgood Marshall, chief counsel of the Legal Defense and Education Fund of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, declared this week in New York, but as part of "old lynch terror, to put the threat of death over all the rNegroes."

Scheduled to be the principal speaker here next week at the Testimonial Banquet in honor of Editor Roscoe Dunjee of The Black Dispatch, the NAACP counsel is expected to give some dramatic sidelights on the implications of the Till murder in Money, Miss.

Atty. Marshall will join other distinguished Americans from Oklahoma and all over the nation in paying tribute to the crusading Sooner State editor Friday evening, November 18, at the banquet which will begin at 7:30 p. m. at the Douglass high school cafeteria.

A book of letters of tribute to Mr. Dunjee, being compiled by Dr. John W. Wavis, president emeritus of West Virginia State university, will be presented to the honoree during the banquet program.

Speakers on the program, beside Atty. Marshall and Editor Dunjee, will include three prominent Oklahomans who have worked closely with Dunjee in his 23 years of NAACP activity and his 40 years of newspaper work in the state. These three who will bring three-minute greetings are: Jake J. Simmons of Muskogee, Atty. Amos T. Hall, Tulsa, and J. T. Armstrong, Luther.

Dr. H. W. Williamston of Idabel, state president of branches of the Oklahoma Conference of the NAACP, will make the presentation of a check to finance Mr. Dunjee's long-hoped-for trip to



ROSCOE DUNJEE

No Kidnap Trial For Milam, Bryant

Dispatch
Sat. 11-19-55

Gov. Hugh White of Mississippi last week figuratively thumbed his nose at Illinois' Governor William Stratton over the failure of a Le Flore county grand jury to indict two men for the kidnapping of Emmett Till. P. 1

The reaction of the Mississippi official came when newsmen questioned him about a request from the Illinois official that he see that the federal government intervene in the Till case.

Refusing to make a statement, he told newsmen: "I wouldn't dignify it by making a statement."

FOUR WITNESSES

Stratton was moved to take action after the Le Flore county grand jury sitting in Greenwood, Miss., refused to indict J. W. Milam and Roy Bryant, charged with kidnapping young Till.

In all, four witnesses appeared before the 20-man, all-white grand jury. Chicago Ill.

Stratton sent his request for federal intervention to Atty. Gen. Herbert Brownell, jr., in Washington.

In his message Stratton said: "It now appears that those responsible for this tragic crime are not being brought to justice.

"As governor of this state I feel it is my duty to respectfully request the United States government, through your office, to investigate the violation of the rights of this Illinois citizen in another state.

MOTHER 'SHOCKED'

Meanwhile, Mrs. Mamie Bradley, mother of the slain boy said in Chicago that she was "shocked" at the failure of the grand jury to indict Milam and Bryant.

"I had expected that there would have been another farcical trial like the one in September and that the two men would eventually go free. But I was not prepared for the grand jury to refuse to indict them." Defender

She added that the news left her "physically ill."

Speaking in Seattle on the first stop of his west coast tour, Moses Wright, uncle of young Till, in commenting on the case said: "Mississippi hasn't got any law. I mean that they don't apply the law the same to the Negro and the white man in Mississippi."

Then added after a pause. "Things are pretty bad for the Negro in Mississippi." P. 2

MILAM COMMENT

In Webb, Miss., where he heard word of the grand jury's action, Milam said simply "I'm glad it's all over."

Le Flore county attorney, Stannie Sanders provoked curiosity with his statement after the jury reported a "no bill".

He said, "This is the end of the case so far as this county is concerned. I would like to make a statement, but I'm sworn to secrecy for six months."

He leaves office in December at the expiration of his term.

Papers both north and south were outspoken in their criticism of the grand jury's action — or lack of it.

Two of the most strongly worded editorials were published by the Chicago Sun-Times and the Memphis Commercial Appeal.

Said the Sun-Times, in part:

But the kidnaping case was different. There was no lack of evidence that would have justified an indictment by any grand jury conscientiously discharging its legal responsibilities and duties — let alone its moral obligations. Somewhere along the line something went wrong — and it was a shameful, evil wrong.

It originated in the doctrine that a white man in Mississippi must not be punished for anything he does against a Negro "who doesn't keep his place." And "anything" encompasses torture, mayhem, the terrorizing of innocent people, kidnaping and even the murder of a defenseless boy.

If the authorities in Borneo were to license head-hunters to practice their ancient tribal rites, the people of Mississippi would be shocked. But they do not appear to be shocked when the legal processes in Mississippi give any white man a license to kidnap or murder any Negro who happens to incur his displeasure.

Decent-minded Americans can only conclude from the mishandling of the Till case that the morals of some of the people of Mississippi are at a bestial level.

The Commercial Appeal declared editorially:

"Action of the grand jury actually means that citizens of a state have agreed that under certain circumstances they will not require accused persons to face trial, even after those persons have admitted that they invaded another man's house, and that they took by force a person from that house.

"It could mean that no home is safe from invasion, no person safe from violence at the hands of others who for any reason decide to take the law into their own hands. It could mean that our devotion to due process represents only lip service; that people can be kidnapped, and that the law will not require the accused to stand trial.

"Whatever else may be said about the Till "wolf whistle" case, we cannot overlook the effect of this affair on our institution or on our tradition. The system has failed in this instance, and a violence has been committed for which the accused, guilty or innocent, will not be called to answer.

"All else in this case must be subordinate to that fact."



MRS. MAMIE BRADLEY

27a 1955

MISSISSIPPI

FBI 8860

NAACP Asks Clarification Of FBI Policy In Kidnap Cases

Informer
Sat, 11-12-55

NEW YORK — The NAACP has asked the FBI to clarify its policy on kidnap cases, in an effort to discover why the Fed eral body entered a kidnap case in New York this week after having asserted that it could not enter the August kidnap case of Emmett Till in Mississippi.

p. 1

In a telegram on November 2 to Attorney General Herbert Brownell, NAACP Executive Secretary Roy Wilkins pointed out that FBI action in the Till kidnapping "might have resulted in uncovering the evidence which subsequently apparently evaded local officials thus torpedoing due process while seeming to satisfy same."

It was reported in New York newspapers that the FBI had entered the search for Stephen Damman, age three, missing in East Meadow, Nassau County, N Y, because of suspicion of kidnapping. Later, it was reported in the press that the FBI in New York said it had not "actively" entered the case, although it was admitted that an FBI agent had been assigned to work with the Nassau police.

The NAACP message noted that 14year-old Emmett Till was "kidnapped at gun point before several witnesses."

"His body was not discovered until three days later, yet during all that time the FBI did not make a move on presumption of kidnapping," the telegram recalled.

The NAACP, Mr Wilkins said, "would like to inquire specifically why the FBI entered the Damman case in New York one day after disappearance of the boy and failed to enter the Till case in Mississippi although three days had passed since Till was known to have been kidnapped by armed men."

The Association's message also commented that Stephen Damman's father is an Air Force clerk at Mitchell Field, while Emmett Till's mother is an Air Force clerk in Chicago.

Ask Clarification of FBI Policy in Kidnap Cases

Daytonalex
p. 2
Des Moines Iowa

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In New York Case

Thurs. 11-10-55

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Why FBI Failed

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Urges FBI Probe Of Till Case

Informer #1
Houston, Tex.
Sat, 11-19-55

NEW YORK — Attorney General Herbert Brownell has again been called upon to intervene in the kidnaping of 14-year-old Emmet Till in view of the acquittal of his accused killers and the refusal of the LeFlore County grand jury to indict them on the kidnap charge.

In a telegram to Mr Brownell, Roy Wilkins, NAACP executive secretary, today pointed out that the jurors in the murder trial based their verdict on the claim that the body was not that of young Till, who has been missing since August 28.

If this is so, Mr Wilkins told the Attorney General, "the clear presumption is that his (Till's) kidnapers have carried him across a state boundary bringing the case within the jurisdiction of the Federal Bureau of Investigation under the Lindbergh act."

FBI SAYS IT CAN'T

Call
Wash. D.C.
11-11-55 (INS)

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The FBI has stated that it cannot intervene in the kidnap-murder of Emmett Till because no federal laws appear to have been violated.

"The FBI does not intervene unless there is evidence the victim has been transported across state lines," claimed Robert Wick, assistant to J. Edgar Hoover.

Kansas City
p. 1

"The FBI maintains liaison with local police officials. We keep informed on the progress of the case so that we won't be caught napping if a federal violation should develop. But we do not send out agents to interview witnesses and actively look for evidence as we would in a federal case."

The explanation came as a result of the telegram sent by the NAACP's Roy Wilkins demanding action.

FBI Wouldn't Enter Till Case But Steps Quickly Into N. Y. Kidnapping

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will be Thurgood Marshall of New York, national defense counsel of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The testimonial affair will give recognition to Editor Dunjee, whose hard-hitting editorials in defense of civil rights have made

napped at gun point before several witnesses."

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LeFlore Grand Jury Fails To Indict Kidnappers; Asks FBI To Investigate Case

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Clear on All Counts

Greenwood, Miss. — A LeFlore county grand jury Wednesday declined to indict two white men on charges of kidnaping Emmett Louis Till, 14-year-old Chicago, Ill., Negro.

The decision freed Roy Bryant, 24, and his 36-year-old half-brother, J. W. Milam, of all charges in the famous case.

Freed at Trial

A trial jury in nearby Sumner six weeks ago found the white storekeepers innocent of murdering Till.

Circuit Judge Arthur Jordan announced the grand jury's decision to waiting newsmen after he discharged the 20-man, all white grand jury.

Bryant and Milam, free on bond, reportedly were working in nearby cotton fields and could not be reached immediately for comment.

The half-brothers were charged in LeFlore county with kidnaping last Aug. 28 after Mose Wright, 64, Till's sharecropper uncle, said two white men took Till away for allegedly making obscene remarks to Mrs. Bryant.

A body was found in the Tallahatchie river three days later. Wright and Till's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley of Chicago, identified it as Till.

Grand Jury

Wright and 18-year-old Willie Reed were called by the grand jury Tuesday.

The other witnesses before the grand jury included Sheriff George Smith and Deputy John Ed Cothran.

Sheriff Smith and his deputy had told the murder trial jury that Bryant and Milam admitted taking Till from Wright's farm shack in nearby Money, but said they freed him unharmed when they found he was the wrong Negro.

Reed's testimony had placed Milam with Till several hours after the two men said they released the Negro boy, who was vacationing in Mississippi when he disappeared.

The two Negroes returned to Mississippi to testify before the grand jury. They went to Chicago after the murder trial because they said they were afraid to remain in Mississippi.

8861

Kidnaping Charge Remains

News and Observer
Raleigh, N.C. Sept 9-24-55

Defendants Found Not Guilty In Mississippi Slaying Trial

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 23 (AP)—A Mississippi Delta jury today acquitted two white half-brothers in the slaying of a vacationing Chicago Negro boy in one hour seven minutes.

The verdict came after three jury ballots.

It climaxed one of the most explosively tense American trials in years. The case stirred racial anger from Northern Negro centers down into the heart of the Deep South.

A courtroom packed with Mississippi Delta residents took the verdict in orderly fashion, but with a loud exclamation.

The defendants, Roy Bryant, 24-year-old Money, Miss., general store keeper, and his half-brother John W. Milam, 36, were accused of the Aug. 28 kidnap-slaying of 14-year-old Emmett (Bobo) Till, a South Side Chicago boy.

A kidnap charge in an adjoining county still hangs over them.

The state called the murder a "cowardly act."

However, the defense cast doubt a body taken from the Tallahatchie River three days after the abduction really was Till's.

It could have been a racial "rabblerouser's plant," the defense argued. The foreman of the jury said the issue of the body's identification was the chief motive behind the verdict.

Young Till was kidnaped from his uncle's cottonfield shack Aug. 28. Four days earlier, a Negro allegedly had indecently tried to date Bryant's wife, Carolyn, 21, and had wolf-whistled at her.

Motive Offered.

Authorities in pretrial statements offered the wolf-whistle incident at the Bryant store in the tiny hamlet in Money as motive for the murder.

A gasp of released tension broke courtroom silence at the acquittal verdict. Then a wave of excited exclamation drove through the more than 300 persons in the room, most of whom [illegible]

There was no disorder, nor had there been any since the trial began Monday.

Juror No. 4, J. A. Shaw, signalled the climax of the celebrated Mississippi Delta trial at 3:43 p.m. CST from inside the tiny jury room with its peeling paint. It was at the left front of the 45-year-old Tallahatchie County courthouse in Sumner.

After the jury came in, Shaw offered a simple, "Not guilty."

Circuit Judge Curtis Swango refused to accept this wording. He sent the jury back. A few minutes later, they returned with a verdict written down in properly legal fashion. It ran:

"We the jury, find the defendants not guilty."

Milam and Bryant seemed impassive. Mrs. Bryant broke into a subdued smile and she and her husband clasped hands. Later, both couples embraced.

Shaw, one of nine cotton planters on the jury, was designated acting foreman by Judge Swango. Mississippi jurors do not pick their own chairman.

Women do not serve on a jury here. Negroes are eligible if they are registered voters but there are none in Tallahatchie County.

State's Failure.

Shaw said the jury's decision was based on the state's failure to prove beyond reasonable doubt that it was young Till's body that was taken nude and mutilated from the Tallahatchie River last Aug. 31.

The defense heavily stressed the issue of identification. In summing up today, defense lawyer John Whitten offered a theory that rabblerousers put a Negro body—dead some days—in the river, and falsely balleyhooed it as Till's. The defense said the body's condition indicated it had been dead some time beyond the three days Till had been missing.

Special prosecutor Robert Smith III said the crime, if unpunished, would endanger the South's "way of life."

He conceded "we have outsiders coming in and disrupting our way of life" but Smith insisted the body had been identified by the boy's mother and further identified by the ring it bore—a ring young Till inherited from his dead father.

The boy's mother Mrs. Mamie Bradley was not in court for the verdict. The young sons of Bryant and Milam also were absent for the climax. The Bryant boys, 2 and 3, and the Milam boys, 2 and 4, perched on their father's knees and frolicked in the courtroom the first two days of the trial.

Judge Swango, at the request of the state, dismissed Tallahatchie County kidnaping indictments against Bryant and Milam. He said Tallahatchie County had jurisdiction in Till's murder but not in his abduction. The body was found in Tallahatchie County. Money, scene of the kidnaping, is in adjoining Leflore County.

Kidnaping Charge.

The pair were turned over to Leflore County Sheriff George Smith. They have been formally charged there with kidnaping but the case has not gone to the grand jury. Bryant and Milam are expected to gain freedom on bond while Leflore County decides whether to try them on kidnaping, a less serious charge here than murder.

Shortly after Till's abduction, Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People, called the slaying a "new style of lynching."

Gov. Hugh White replied it was murder, not lynching.

From there the argument snowballed into an avalanche of letters to principals in the case and officials, most of them reflecting extreme racial antagonism.

The state never specifically asked for a verdict which would have sent Bryant and Milam to Mississippi's gas chamber. Instead, the state merely cited the penal verdicts possible—guilty with death or guilty with life imprisonment.

Neither man took the witness stand in his own defense. There was no compulsion for them to do so under the law.

As photographers and cameramen surrounded the defendants and their attractive wives after the verdict, Milam gave 27-year-old Juanita Milam a long, forceful kiss. Bryant hesitated until photographers induced him to kiss his wife too.

No Comment.

Neither man offered any comment at the moment.

Mrs. Milam said she was happy, and Mrs. Bryant with a small, radiant smile declared:

"I'm very happy. I feel a lot better than I did yesterday on the witness stand."

The case went to the jury at 2:36 p.m. CST.

The trial lasted five days.

Just before the case went to the jury, defense attorney John Whitten said: "There are people in the United States who want to destroy the custom and way of life of Southern white people and Southern colored people.

"There are people out to put us at odds who are willing to go as far as possible, to commit any crime to widen the gap between us.

"If these people had the opportunity to create a commotion, to stir up a trial such as this and focus national attention on Mississippi and focus national attention on the strained relations here, they would do it."

Whitten then offered the theoretical possibility the body of another Negro could have been thrown into the river and passed off as Till.

"I don't know that happened," he said. "I do know that it is well within the realm of possibility."

Ending state arguments, Robert Smith III said: "I tell you, gentlemen, that Emmett Till was entitled to his constitutional rights, he was entitled to his liberty and once we go taking away his rights then we are on the defensive and we can't complain what people do to us.

"Those people (outside agitators) want J. W. Milam and Roy Bryant turned loose. If they're convicted those people are silenced. They can't say the State of Mississippi didn't do its duty."

News In Brief

News and Observer
Raleigh, N.C.

Trial In Mississippi;

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 17 (AP)—A sensational trial rattles the quiet routine of this little farm town Monday when two white men face charges of murdering a Negro boy who whistled at a white woman.

Sept 9-18-55

National attention centers on the dusty town built around the traditional court house square, half a mile from a main highway. It centers on a county where Negroes outnumber whites 3 to 1.

The slaying of 14-year-old Emmett Louis Till of Chicago brought a cloudburst of protest from other states.

Despite the state's taut race relations, Sheriff H. C. Strider said he expects no incident. He took off for a weekend trip to Atlanta and the Mississippi-Georgia football game.

There has been no repetition of the rumors of invading Chicago Negroes and threatening telephone calls which brought out the National Guard in Greenwood when the two accused men were in jail there two weeks ago.

The trial begins three weeks and two days after Till's body, a bullet hole in his head and a weight around his neck, was pulled from the muddy Tallahatchie River. The scene was a quarter of a mile inside Tallahatchie County.

The boy, visiting a tenant farmer uncle reportedly whistled at the wife of a storekeeper in Money, a tiny community in neighboring Leflore County, and some reports said he also made some "ugly remarks."

The climax of the explosive case begins with selection of an all-white jury at 9 a.m. CST in the little courtroom of an old, grey brick courthouse. No Negroes will serve on the jury. None is listed on the special 125-man jury panel drawn for the trial. That's customary in Tallahatchie County.

Women do not serve on Mississippi juries.

The state will try to convince the jury "beyond all reasonable doubt and to a moral certainty" that Roy Bryant, 24, and his half brother, 35-year-old J. W. Milam, killed the lad.

The accused men admitted taking Till from his uncle's home, officers said, but said they released him unharmed when Mrs. Bryant said he was not the boy who whistled at her.

The men pleaded innocent to the murder indictment. They also face a kidnaping indictment in Tallahatchie County and a kidnaping charge in adjoining Leflore County where Till was abducted.

Defendant's Wife Says Negro Molested Her

Courier-Journal

But Testimony Is Withheld From The Jury

Fri. 10-23-55

Sumner, Miss., Sept. 22 (AP) — A young Mississippi white mother claimed today she was molested by a wolf-whistling Negro boy. Three days later a visiting Chicago Negro lad was abducted and slain, allegedly as the molester who tried obscenely to date her.

P 13

The testimony of pretty Mrs. Carolyn Bryant, 21, was withheld from a jury trying her 24-year-old husband, Roy, and his half brother, J. W. Milam, 36, for murder. The court ruled it inadmissible.

A rapt white-Negro audience heard Mrs. Bryant's first public words in defense of the two men accused of the kidnap-slaying of 14-year-old Emmett Louis Till.

Louisville Ky.

Says It's Unrelated

Circuit Judge Curtis Swango, Jr., ruled the testimony out under Mississippi law. He said it was unrelated in time and substance to the kidnap-slaying.

With a sensational part of its case a loss as far as the jury was concerned, the defense concentrated on the identity of a body taken from the Tallahatchie River about 15 miles from the kidnap scene Agust 31.

The State says it was young Till. The defense vigorously questioned the identifiction. The State rested its case early in the afternoon of th etrial's fourth day.

The defense has a few character witnesses. The all-male, all-white jury is expected to begin deliberating the fate of Milam and Bryant tomorrow afternoon. The State is asking the minimum of a life sentence but is not asking the death penalty.

Admitted Abduction

In the oral statements to authorities, the two white men admitted abducting Till August 28 from the cotton-field shack of his uncle. Till was vacationing in Mississippi. But they said they released his unharmed in front of Bryant's general store at Money a short time later.

A Negro, William Reed, 18, claimed otherwise in the windup of the State's case. His testimony placed Till and Milam hours and miles away in a Sunday scene of "licks and hollering." Reed testified he heard the noises coming from a country barn shortly after dawn. Moments earlier, he claimed, four white men had driven up to the barn with Till.

During this incident, Reed said, he saw Milam emerge from the barn, drink water from a well, and return to the barn.

Saw Him After 'Hollering'

"Did you see him before you heard some noise in the barn and hollering?" he was asked.

"After I heard it," Reed replied.

In her testimony for the record, Mrs. Bryant did not mention Till by name. She was not asked if she knew by name the Negro who entered her store. She did say he was not a Delta Negro and that he spoke with a "Northern brogue."

Mrs. Bryant said she was alone in the front of her husband's store when "this Negro man came in and stopped at the candy counter. . . . The youth ordered bubble gum.

'Can't You Take It?'

"I held out my right hand for some money. He caught my hand. I removed my hand. He said, 'How about a date, baby?' I turned and started to the back of the store. He caught me at the cash register . . . and put both hands around my waist. He said, 'What's the matter, baby, can't you take it?' "

Mrs. Bryant said she freed herself with difficulty. She testified he then addressed her in terms too unprintable to relate, ending the sentence: "with white women before."

"Then another Negro came in," she said, "and told him to leave and took him by the arm. He left unwillingly. He turned and said good-by as he left. I started out to go to the car for my pistol. He was standing on the front porch of the store. He whistled."

Gives A Wolf-Whistle

Defense lawyer Sidney Carlton gave a wolf-whistle and asked Mrs. Bryant if that was about it.

"Yes," Mrs. Bryant said.

Mrs. Bryant said her husband was out of town on a business trip. Three days later at 2 a.m. Till was abducted. The boy's uncle has testified the abductors demanded "the boy who done the talk at Money."

Three days later the boy's body was found.

The defense produced three witnesses who swore the body that came from the river had been dead at least eight days.

Earlier, for the State, Till's widowed mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley, 33, identified a picture of the Tallahatchie River body as that of her son. Then she bowed her head and wept.



"IT'S THIS WAY"—Rencher N. Harris, Negro city councilman, congratulates Mrs. Ruby Hurley for her graphic account of the Till lynch case which she related in Durham at the conference of North Carolina's NAACP branches. Mrs. Hurley is Southeastern regional representative.—Rivera Photo.

8862

LOOK MAGAZINE ARTICLE SAYS TWO HALF BROTHERS TOLD WRITER HOW AND WHY THEY KILLED 14-YEAR-OLD NEGRO YOUTH IN THE FAMOUS WOLF WHISTLE INCIDENT

Say Pair Admits Wiring 74-Pound Gin Fan To Youth's Neck And Rolling Body Into Tallahatchie River

Lawyers Say Constitution Saves Pair From Further Prosecution For Crime

New York, N. Y. Jan. 9 — In an article in the current issue of Look Magazine, William Bradford Huie, well known author and lecturer, J. W. Milam and Roy Bryant, admitted their part in the crime, and told how and why they killed Emmet Louis Till, the 14-year-old Negro youth in the now famous Money, Mississippi wolf whistle incident.

An advance release issued to the press by Look Magazine says:

New York, January 9 — Emmett (Bobo) Till's bragging that he "had relations with white women," and his bravado in the face of a whipping by the half-brothers, J. W. Milam and Roy Bryant, led to his killing, statements attributed to the two men indicated.

The true facts about the killing of the 14-year-old Negro boy in Mississippi by Milam and Bryant came to light today in an article by William Bradford Huie, published in the new issue of Look Magazine. Both men were found not guilty of murdering Till by a Sumner, Mississippi jury last September.

Before shooting Till with a bullet from his .45 Colt automatic pistol, J. W. Milam was quoted as saying, "Chicago boy, I'm tired of 'em sending your kind down here to stir up trouble. Goddam you, I'm going to make an example of you — just so everybody can know how me and my folks stand," the Look article reported.

Milam defended the killing with the statement, reported in the Look article, 'We never were able to scare him. They had just filled him so full of that poison he was hopeless."

Milam and his half-brother Roy Bryant originally intended to "just whip Till and scare some sense into him," the statement said in Look. They decided to kill him after the Negro youth kept insisting, "I'm not afraid of you. I'm as good as you are. I've 'had' white women. My grandmother was a white woman."

The following account of the Till killing was given in the Look article:

First, the two men beat the Negro boy, smashing him across the head with two .45 Colt pistols in Milam's tool house behind his home.

Then, they drove the boy to the Tallahatchie River. At the river's edge, Milam asked Till, "You still as good as I am?" Till said, "Yeah."

Milam asked, "You've still 'had' white women?" Till said, "Yeah."

Milam raised his .45 and shot the boy through his right ear.

He and his half-brother Roy [illegible] barb-wired a 74-pound gin fan which Till had carried to the river's shore at their order, to the boy's neck and rolled him into 20 feet of water, the Look article said.

For three hours on the morning of the killing (Sunday, August 28), there was a fire in Milam's back yard. "Bobo's crepe-soled shoes were hard to burn," the Look article said.

The article also disclosed the following facts which led to Till's killing:

1. Young Emmett Till accosted Roy Bryant's wife Carolyn inside the Bryant store at Money, Mississippi. His act came after he had been challenged by a cousin to make good his boast that he had success with white girls in Chicago.

2. Till 'squeezed Carolyn's hand and said, 'How about a date, Baby?'", when she handed him 2 cents' worth of bubble gum, the Look story said. As Carolyn ran to the back of the store, young Till jumped in front of her, perhaps caught her at the waist and said, "You needn't be afraid o' me, Baby, I been with white girls before."

8863

FBI gets statement of Ill. man

- Saw murder while seated in another car
- Killers known, says head of Miss. NAACP

E. ST. LOUIS, Ill.—An eyewitness account of the lynching of the Rev. George W. Lee in Belzoni, Miss., on May 7 has been given FBI agents here, it was disclosed today.

The witness, Alex Hudson, was traced here by the NAACP after fleeing Mississippi in fear of his life.

Billy Mitchell, an East St. Louis lawyer and president of the Illinois State NAACP, accompanied the witness to the FBI office where he told his story.

Hudson said that on the night of the lynching, he was riding with a friend when the Rev. Mr. Lee's car passed.

Hudson told the FBI he saw another auto overtake that of the courageous clergyman and heard shots fired from the second car.

The Rev. Mr. Lee's car then swerved off the road and crashed into a house; while the other auto disappeared in the darkness.

OCCUPANTS of the "lynch" car are well known to everyone in the Belzoni area, Dr. A. H. McCoy, president of the Mississippi State NAACP, charged Wednesday.

"The puzzling thing is why the sheriff doesn't arrest the men who did it," he said.

Sheriff Ike Shelton of Belzoni, who at first attributed Rev. Mr. Lee's death to the auto crash, has called the case "the most puzzling I ever handled."

Later when informed by the FBI that the militant minister had been killed by shotgun pellets, Sheriff Shelton suggested that the "killer must be another colored person because Lee was a lady's man."

ANOTHER FRIEND of the Mr. Lee has fled Mississippi after attending the slain NAACP leader's funeral.

He is the Rev. James H. Hargrove, 54, who described himself as a solicitor for the NAACP in Mileston, Miss., his hometown.

The Rev. Mr. Hargroves decided it was time to leave after a friend told him of overhearing two white men say Hargrove "was likely to follow Rev. Lee if he didn't quit working for the NAACP."

The Rev. Mr. Hargroves revealed he has been having his his troubles lately.

His credit had been frozen frozen since the first of the year although it had always been good in the past.

He said he was burdened with a mortgage covering hidden expenses and cotton ginning services he never received.

In fleeing, Hargrove was compelled to leave his wife, Mamie and their ten daughters behind.

THE LYNCHING of the Rev. Mr. Lee was generally believed motivated by his activities in urging colored citizens to vote.

On the day he was killed, it was reported that he told friends someone at the courthouse had advised him to remove his name from the registration list.

He had refused to do so.

Although there were 710,000 whites and 497,000 colored persons of voting age, only 285,000 votes were cast in the 1952 election.

How many of these were cast by colored voters is now known. There are about 20,000 colored voters on the registration books in the state.

IN COMMENTING on this situation at memorial services held for Rev. Mr. Lee last week, Roy Wilkins of the NAACP said:

"What does this mean? It means that Mississippi does not have a government system that gives representation to all the people, only to a small part of them.

"It means that not only colored people, but tens of thousands of whites are prevented from voting."

Interpreting the death of Rev. Lee as designed to discourage colored registration and voting, Belzoni colored persons have joined other Mississippians in an all-out registration drive.

In the meantime, the FBI is continuing its investigation of the minister's death.

Senate To Step In?

FBI's Probe Of Lynching Of Preacher Continues

WASHINGTON (NNPA)—The reasons for a Senate investigation of violence and intimidation to keep colored persons from registering and voting in Mississippi appear stronger now than they did immediately following the lynching of the Rev George W. Lee in Belzoni, Mississippi, on the night of May 7.

The NNPA has learned that not only is the FBI investigating the lynching of Mr Lee but its agents have been investigating incidents in Mississippi for several years to find violations of Federal civil rights statutes.

Two years ago the FBI thought it had a good case. The sheriff of one county in Mississippi had refused to accept from colored persons payment of their poll taxes. After legal action was threatened, he took the profferred payments.

Payment of poll tax had to be made prior to February 1 in order to vote in elections that year. The sheriff dated the recipts February 2, 1953. The colored poll-tax payers were so surprised at acceptance of their payments that they did not look at their recipts until they got outside. There they discovered the trick.

What the sheriff overlooked was the fact that the colored persons who had paid their poll taxes had their cancelled checks. They went to the United States Attorney and presented the case to a grand jury. The grand jury promptly ignored the charge.

The United States Attorney was so convinced that he presented the case, showing photographs and got an indictment but the trial jury returned a verdict of not guilty.

FBI Launches Full Probe In Death Of Rev. George Lee

WASHINGTON — (SNS) — Recently the Justice Department revealed that the Federal Bureau of Investigation has launched a "full scale" investigation into the mysterious death of the militant Belzoni, Miss. minister, the Rev. G. W. Lee who was killed under mysterious circumstances May 7.

The announcement was made by Justice Department Public Relations Director G. Frederick Mullen, who explained that a preliminary FBI probe had turned up enough information to warrant a full investigation.

The militant Belzoni minister, who allegedly was threatened for not removing his name from the voter registers list and for urging other Belzoni Negroes to register and vote, died May 7 en route to a hospital after his car crashed into a house on Church Street in Belzoni.

It has been conjectured that Rev. Lee lost control of his car after being shot from a shotgun fired by three white men in a convertible car. Small lead pellets found in the facial wounds of the Rev. Mr. Lee in an examination by two Negro doctors were sent to Washington and later analyzed as shot gun pellets.

The slaying of the Belzoni minister has been attributed to the work of the white so-called Citizens Councils in Mississippi. Mississippi state NAACP president, Dr. A. H. McCoy of Jackson, placed direct blame on the councils although Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the NAACP at the mass meet-ing held in Belzoni protesting the slaying of Rev. Lee, declined to place direct blame on the citizens councils but inferred their actions possibly led to the slaying.

Eyewitness Tells FBI Agents How Gun Blast Killed Mississippi Pastor

Special to Journal and Guide

NEW YORK—An eyewitness to the fatal shooting of the Rev. George W. Lee in Belzoni, Miss., on May 7, last week told FBI agents in East St. Louis, Ill., what he had seen that night, according to information received here by Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The witness, Alex Hudson, was located in East St. Louis by the NAACP. He had left Mississippi a week after the killing. Billy Jones, an East St. Louis lawyer and president of the Illinois State NAACP, accompanied the witness to the FBI office where the Mississippian told his story.

HUDSON SAYS that he was sitting with a friend when Rev. Mr. Lee's car passed. He saw another car overtake that of the clergyman and heard the shots fired from the second car. Rev. Mr. Lee's car swerved off the road and crashed into a house while the other car disappeared in the darkness.

The NAACP, Mr. Wilkins said, is tracing other witnesses in the hope of securing the arrest and conviction of the slayers.

AT A MEMORIAL service held in Belzoni on May 22, the NAACP executive assured 400 Negro leaders from all over the state of continued NAACP support in the fight for the ballot, for justice and for desegregation of the public schools. "We expect to stay in Mississippi for the duration—until victory is won," he said.

Mr. Wilkins lauded the slain clergyman as a courageous man who "fought for equality and first-class citizenship for himself and for his people." He was killed, the NAACP leader charged "because he thought he ought to vote just like other Americans. Someone threatened him and told him he should withdraw his name from the registration lists. He refused to do this because he was an American and Americans have the right to vote."



Consolation—Four of the persons who have been making news in Belzoni, Miss., here, left to right, Roy Wilkins, left, gives his condolences to Mrs. Rosebud Lee, widow of the slain martyr, the Rev. G. W. Lee, as Mrs. Ruby Hurley, regional NAACP secretary, and Dr. A. H. McCoy, president of Mississippi's NAACP conference of branches look on. This quartet is giving Mississippi Negroes encouragement to cast aside fear.

8864

Pin Vote Slaying On Trio

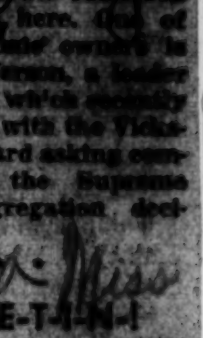
B-U-L-L-E-T-I-N-!

VICKSBURG, Miss.—

DURHAM, N. C.—The Ku Klux Klan was officially revived at a secret meeting in this state Saturday night with Imperial Wizard Green presiding. KKK spokesmen said the group's revival was for the protection of "white supremacy."

BROOKHAVEN, Miss.—A Mississippi sheriff declared, last week, there was "nothing special" about the case of a Negro being shot down on the lawn of the Lincoln County Court House here on Aug. 16.

Lamar D. (Dipney) Smith was slain by a gun held in the hands of a white man after he had made the "mistake" of trying to participate in a local election.



Mr. Smith

The three suspects in the case, farmers Noah and Mack Smith, 39, and 45 years of age, respectively, and Chas. Valvey, 35, have been freed on $20,000 bond awaiting the action of a grand jury which is slated to convene on Sept. 5.

The suspects waived preliminary hearing last week, before a justice of the peace.

* * *

DISTRICT ATTORNEY E. C. Barlow charged that the murder of Smith was "politically inspired and said that Smith was assassinated because he was campaigning against the incumbent supervisor, J. Hugh James, whose office was up for grabs in Brookhaven's 'Democratic primary'."

After rumors had spread that Brookhaven citizens were passing a petition which calls for the calling out of Mississippi's National Guard, Governor Hugh White let it be known he felt that Lincoln County Sheriff Robert Case had the situation well in hand despite a request of Barlow that the Highway Patrol enter the case.

Revealing that Case felt there was nothing special about Smith's murder, Governor White said Case had told him that there was "no need" for all the "attention" being given to the case.

"You know, Barlow just did not give the sheriff enough time to perform his duties. The man Smith gave himself up in time."

THE GOVERNOR then added that political squabbles could not be settled "by the gun. If that were true, I would have already got a shotgun to a certain candidate I know."

However, A. W. Wells, president of the Mississippi Progressive Voters League, charged that the slaying was not provoked by politics. Wells said that Smith was murdered because he took an active role in the political campaign in Lincoln County.

Smith, the Courier learned, had been "warned" to stay out of politics or face "execution."

He had assisted Negroes in his community to become registered and qualified as voters and this year, for the first time, a large number of Negroes had cast ballots.

* * *

DISTRICT ATTORNEY Barsaid that he has "evidence of the violation in every form of the Corrupt Practices Act and the privilege of absentee voting as been shamefully abused." Smith had been urging Negroes to cast absentee ballots.

At the time a .38-calibre bullet ripped through his body, Smith was carrying a load of circulars telling Negroes how to cast absentee ballots.

When he was shot down, in broad daylight, about fifty white and Negro "citizens" of Brookhaven were looking on, according to Barlow who complained, "I can't get most of them to say they saw it."

The three suspects may be tried before Judge Tom Brady who has become "famous" recently in these parts since the printing of his book, "Black Monday," which denounces integration.

The "Black Monday" Brady wrote about was the day on which the U. S. Supreme Court ruled that segregation must go.

* * *

SMITH'S WIDOW had but "one regret" she told an NAACP official. She said, between sobs, that she had neglected to ask her husband who sent for him the day he went into town to be killed.

Mrs. Smith feels that whoever sent for her husband is, somehow, implicated in the murder.

in Mississippi in regard to their civil rights.

It came after the Elk's Rest in Belzoni was broken into and virtually destroyed by white hoodlums, and after the windows of a number of cars owned by Negroes were broken out by white vandals.

It came after police refused to act time and again in Negroes' complaints of these outrages.

It happened during an economic battle between whites and Negroes that resulted when whites began to withdraw credit from Negroes because they would not voluntarily accept jim crow schools in spite of the May 17 decision of the Supreme Court making them unconstitutional.

The Department of Justice has remained silent during all the long months that tension was being built up in the state by Negro-hating whites who have openly conspired to deny Negroes their rights as American citizens.

It is time now for federal action. The government can ill afford at this time or any other to capitulate to a few hoodlum whites who finger their noses at the constitution, the bill of rights and federal authority.

The veneer of democracy our national capital, Washington has recently acquired cannot conceal the dark, ugly un-American goings on in Mississippi and other benighted areas of the country.

It is America's shame and America's blame that Rev. Lee was slain—and federal action should be coming forthwith.

Time For U.S. To Act

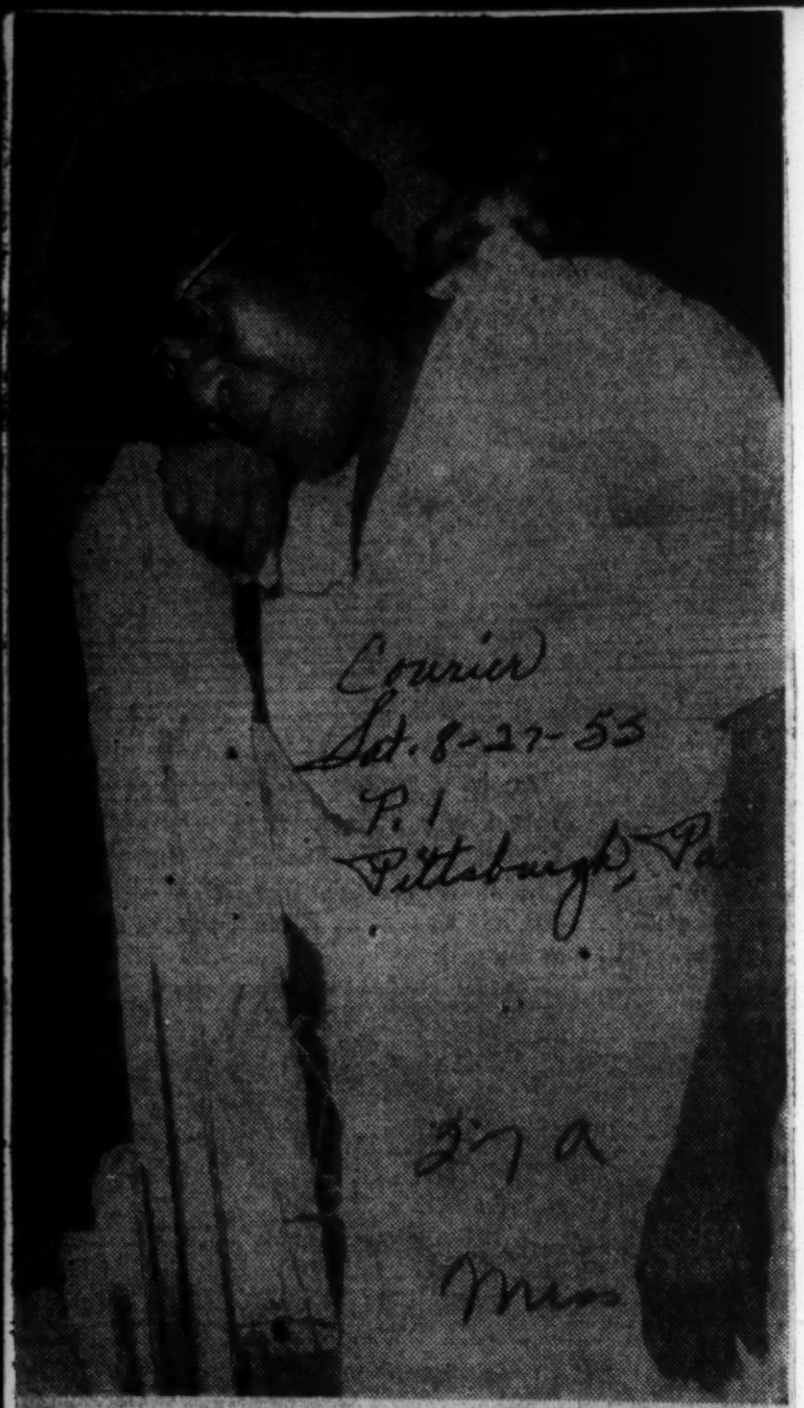
A Negro minister was killed in Belzoni, Miss., two weeks ago under circumstances that warrant a federal investigation.

According to L. A. Wilson of the Tri-State Defender in Memphis who broke the story, the gangland style assasination of Rev. George Lee was the climax of a reign of terror that has been conducted by whites in the town for several weeks.

Mr. Wilson is known to us as a responsible newspaperman, a stickler for accuracy and mature enough to evaluate the facts once he has gathered them.

It is his opinion that the slaying was actually a lynching intended to deter the efforts of Negroes to assert their rights as citizens and as human beings in the state.

It followed by less than a week a stirring mass meeting at Mound Bayou attended by 3,000 persons at which freshman Congressman Charles Diggs of Detroit voiced the hopes and aspirations of Negroes



Courier
Sat. 8-27-55
P. 1
Pittsburgh, Pa.

27a

Mrs

One Regret!—Mrs. Lamar Smith, whose husband was assassinated on the lawn of the Lincoln County (Miss.) Courthouse, told the NAACP last week that the one thing she regretted was that she didn't think to ask her husband who it was that sent for him. She believes that the person who sent for Smith is linked to his murder.

Says It Upholds Lynching

Rap at Till's Dad Hit by Atty. Huff

CHICAGO—(ANP)—Louis Till, father of youthful Emmett Louis Till, who recently met death in Mississippi because he allegedly whistled at a white woman, was not a war hero, nor was he a model husband.

The elder Till's war record was exposed in a copyrighted story in the Jackson Daily News.

William Henry Huff, attorney for the Till side in the case, called the newspaper story an attempt to condone the "lynching" of a child. In a special statement, he declared:

"This argument about the father coming from high sources is an attempt to condone the lynching of this child."

Louis Till's bad marital record was revealed by his mother-in-law, Mrs. Alma Spearman.

According to the Daily News story, Till was hanged in Italy July 2, 1945, as a result of a trial on Feb. 17, 1945, in Leghorn, Italy, on charges of raping two Italian women and shooting to death a third one on June 27, 1944, in Civitavecchia, Italy.

An Army report, the paper said, reads as follows:

"Pvt. Louis Till of 177th Port Company, was executed in Italy July 2, 1945, for murder and rape at age 24."

At that time Till was legally married to Emmett's mother, now Mrs. Mamie Bradley. (They had been separated for some time.)

— BIGGEST and the BEST —

Till's Father's Crime Doesn't Justify Lynching

CHICAGO— William Henry Huff, a Chicago lawyer who has served as legal advisor for Mrs Mamie Bradley since the kidnap-murder of her 14-year-old son, Emmett Louis Till, said last week after learning of the Army execution of Mrs Bradley's husband, Louis, that "whatever the lad's father did does not inure to the son." "The disclosure that the slain boy's father did not die a hero's death does not justify the youth's lynching nor discredit either the dead boy nor his mother, Mrs Mamie Bradley."

The Jacksonville Daily News, a Mississippi daily newspaper, reported in a copywrited story on October 15 that the elder Till kidnapped three white women on June 27, 1944 at Cidltaveccia, Italy. The story also disclosed that Till murdered one of the women and raped the other two.

The reporters who broke the story said they learned from the Army that Private Louis Till was court martialed and hanged later for his crimes.

Previously, newspapers and magazines have reported that Till died a heroic death fighting for his country.

Attorney Huff charged that the Jacksonville Daily News' expose of Louis Till's death was only a part of the strategy used to influence the jury who will try Roy Bryant and J.W. Milam, the half-white brothers who have been indicated for kidnapping Emett Till

Bryant and Milam were acquitted on charges of murdering Till last month by an all white Mississippi jury. Young Till was kidnapped, murdered and then dumped into the river after he allegedly wolf whistled at Bryant's wife.

Huff said the newspaper article was an attempt to condone lynching of Emmett Till.

"Article III, Section 3 of the U.S. Constitution sets out that 'There shall be no corruption of blood'. Whatever the lad's father did does not inure to the lad. This argument about the father coming from high sources is an attempt to condone the lynching of the child," the lawyer said in a special statement.

Lawyer Huff also scorned the role that was played by Mississippi's two senators, James O. Eastland and John Stennis. The reporters who first broke the story gave credit to the two senators for helping getting the Army to release the information about the elder Till's death.

Mrs Bradley said until the Jacksonville story, the only report of her husband execution was that he died of "willful misconduct."



PVT. LOUIS TILL

Army Gave Till Facts To Eastland

By ETHEL L. PAYNE

WASHINGTON — The Army denied this week that it had released records of Pvt. Louis Till to Southern newspapers. The information on the execution of the soldier the Army said was made available to Sen. James O. Eastland of Mississippi on his request.

Senator Eastland made his inquiry through the office of the Judge Advocate General last Saturday.

A spokesman for that office said that it is a rigid policy of the Army never to permit records to be shown, but questions of inquiry on cases are answered.

Information on the background of Till came from the records division of the Army in St. Louis, Mo.

The case is of particular interest because the Louis Till who was hanged in Italy on July 2, 1945, is the father of 14-year-old Emmett Till whose lynching in Mississippi has now become an international 'cause celebre'.

IKE SIGNED APPROVAL

The officer who signed the approval of Pvt. Till's execution was Gen. Dwight David Eisenhower. Till was buried in the military cemetery at Naples, Italy.

In Washington, Mrs. Mamie Bradley, mother of Emmett Till, stoutly maintained that the Army has never made the details of her husband's death known to her although she sent an inquiry to President Truman, the chaplain of the Army and several other persons.

The Judge Advocates office said that details are always made known to the nearest of kin, in this instance a Lee Green of Argo, Ill.

Mrs. Bradley said that in 1950 while she was away, a trunk containing service records of her late husband was rifled and everything was destroyed.

She said she had tried in vain for 10 years to get the facts in the case and she lived in dread of the day when her son would ask "What happened to my father?". He never did.

Mrs. Bradley said she was glad that now at long last she might find out the facts. She said she would ask Sen. Paul Douglas to make a full investigation for her.

Mrs. Bradley said that if the Senator from Mississippi could be given a full accounting of the case she did not see why she, the widow, could not be told.

6,000 FILL ARENA

The Chicago mother spoke on Sunday before a crowd of 6,000 who filled the Uline Arena in Washington. Four thousand more who waited outside were given a chance to hear her at a second special service that evening.

The rally was arranged by Rev. Smallwood Williams, pastor of the Bible Way church in Washington.

Reverend Williams made public a letter received from Sen. Thomas Hennings of Missouri, chairman of the sub committee on civil rights.

The minister had requested that Mrs. Bradley be allowed to testiby before the committee, but the Senator sent regrets that the committee would not be in session at that time.

The chairman of the full Senate Committee on Internal Security is the same Sen. James Eastland of Mississippi.

The Uline rally launched a nation-wide spiritual mobilization drive against intolerance and racial bigotry in Mississippi and elsewhere.

While in Washington Mrs. Bradley sought an interview with Maxwell Rabb, secretary of the cabinet and White House aide on minority problems, but Rabb's office said his heavy schedule would not permit time for an interview.

Huff Fears Plot To Free Accused

Defender

Sat. 10-22-55

The execution 10 years ago of slain Emmett Till's father was headlined in the southern press this week in what a Chicago attorney described as an effort to influence the grand jury that is to weigh kidnapping charges against J. W. Milam and Roy Bryant.

The two were recently acquitted of charges that they killed the boy after taking him from his uncle's home in Money, Miss.

William Henry Huff of Chicago declared Sunday that the disclosure that the slain boy's father did not die a hero's death "does not justify the youth's lynching nor discredit either the dead boy nor his mother," Mrs. Mamie Bradley.

Chicago Sun

SCORES SENATORS

He also scored the role played by Mississippi's two senators, James O. Eastland and John Stennis in helping efforts to force the army to release the information which the Defense department had previously refused to give Mrs. Bradley.

Reporters who broke the story credited the two Mississippi senators with being of great assistance in their efforts to secure information from the army regarding the fate of Till, Sr.

Private Louis Till was court marshalled and hanged for "premeditated murder" of Anna Zanchi and the rape of Bennie Lucretzia and Frieda Mari, the records showed.

The Army refused to release the full story, but the limited information suggested he kidnaped the three Italian women, murdering one and raping the two others.

HANGED JULY 1945

Records also showed the crimes were committed June 27, 1944 at Ciditaveccia, Italy where the 23-year-old soldier was serving with the Army's 177 Port company, 397 Port battalion.

He was found guilty Feb. 17, 1945 after a U. S. Army Military trial at Leghorn, Italy and was executed by hanging July 2, 1945.

His Army record listed his wife, from whom he was separated at the time, as Mamie. It listed a son named Emmett, and the record shows that on Sept. 2, 1942, he allotted a part of his Army pay to his son, Emmett, who was then listed as being eight months old.

The records shows that apparently because of his separation from his wife, he listed an uncle, Lee Green of 7533 64th st., Argo, Ill., as his next of kin. The same address, that of a Chicago suburb also was listed on his record as his own home address.

KNEW NO DETAILS

Mrs. Mamie Bradley said she received "a telegram from the department telling me of my husband's death July 2, 1945 and saying that a letter would follow.

"I received the letter and it said that cause of death was 'wilful misconduct.' I have heard rumors and I have tried to find out what actually happened," she told reporters.

"I wrote to the commanding officer, to the chaplain and to the President but received no satisfaction."

Army records showed she was informed by telegraph and letter dated July 13, 1945 and that her former husband had died July 2 "due to wilful misconduct," a phrase often used by the Army in such cases, pending further inquiries from the family.

Army records further revealed that on July 7, 1948 a Chicago lawyer, Joseph M. Tobias, suite 753, 38 S. Dearborn St., Chicago 30, Ill., wrote the Army on behalf of the "wife and child."

His letter asked "an opportunity to examine all processes in this matter as the wife and child are in strained circumstanaces." He wanted to know if they had any benefits coming.

The Army refused to make public its reply on the grounds it was legal correspondence and privileged.

However, it was learned, it was normal in answering such inquiries to point out that the soldier was executed and that because of this all benefits are automatically forfeited.

Huff, an NAACP lawyer and expert in extradition, has been Mrs. Bradley's legal advisor since the kidnapping of the youth August 28.

In further commenting on the new disclosures he said "It is a part of the foundation of this country that there is no corruption of the blood. Whatever happened to the father does not enure to the son."

Sunday Mrs. Bradley was in Washington and could not be contacted for further questioning.

8866

Seek Two Boys Who May Have Seen Miss Lynching

(Special To The Informer)

SUMNER, Miss — Two colored boys believed to been at the scene of Emmett Till's murder are the object of one of the greatest reporter manhunts this section of the nation has ever known.

Sources close to the trial have said that these two boys "have been disposed of" because they "know too much" while others say they are being held incommunicado in jail pending developments in the trial.

The two boys are Leroy "Two Tight" Collins and Henry Lee Logan who are said to have worked for one of the Defendants.

Reports range from placing the two boys at the scene of the crime to the front of the house from which Till was taken August 25.

The reporter is able to state that "Two Tight" is definitely missing from his former residence. The writer talked with his former landlady who said "they came and got him Monday a week ago asked who were "They" she said 'The White People."

Asked if she knew where he was she said, "I hear he's in Jail; I hope he is."

A woman who lived as man and wife with Harry Logan said he is also "in Jail I think".

Friends of the two report they just disappeared.

Some reports say they are being held in a distant jail to be sprung as surprise witnesses by the prosecution.

At this point no one in an official capacity has discussed the two names.

Writers here, including this one, consider this one of the hottest angles in the case thus far.

Sheriff, Deputies Search All Spectators For Hidden Arms

By JAMES L. HICKMAN

SUMNER, Miss. — (INS) — Ten shirt-sleeved jurors — Eight of them Delta farmers — were accepted late Monday for the trial of two Mississippi white men charged with the "wolf-whistle" kidnap-murder of Emmett Louis Till, 14-year-old Chicago Negro youth.

The jury is expected to be completed today.

The defendants, Roy Bryant, 24, whose wife allegedly was whistled at by the slain youth, and J. W. Milam, 36, watched the opening day proceedings with their families at their sides.

The trial—as big an event as this small town of 700 has seen in many a year—opened quietly with the thermometer hovering above 90 in the courtroom of Judge Curtis M. Swango.

Before adjourning court at 5 p. m. (CST) until 9 o'clock today, the judge informed the ten men who have been accepted that they must remain in a body and be quartered in a Sumner Hotel last night under the supervision of four bailiffs who will see to it that they are made as comfortable as possible.

"DON'T TALK TO OUTSIDERS"

He cautioned them not to listen to news broadcasts, read newspapers or even discuss the case among themselves. He warned them they were not to talk to any "outsiders."

The time for them to discuss the case is after the evidence has been presented, he explained.

The defendants were taken back by car to the jail at nearby Charleston where they are being held without bail.

EVERYONE SEARCHED

Every person who entered the courtroom was searched by Sheriff H. C. Strider and his deputies for guns or other weapons.

The sheriff said this precaution was being taken because he had received 160 threatening letters from individuals in Chicago, New York, Detroit and other cities.

"If anyone is going to use guns around this courtroom it will be me and my deputies," he declared.

Bryant, a general storekeeper of Money, Miss., and his half-brother, Milam, have two small sons each, and from time to time the boys sat on their fathers' laps.

Now and then one of the children flourished a toy pistol. Through out the day Bryant whispered to his wife, Carolyn.

CAUSE OF INCIDENT

It was she who told him that young Till had "wolf-whistled" and made remarks to her when he and several other Negro boys entered the Bryant store on Aug. 24 to buy bubble gum. Milam also talked to his wife, Juanita.

The Till boy was taken from his uncle's home near Money at 2 a. m. on Aug. 28. His body was found three days later in the Tallahatchie River. He had been shot and badly beaten.

The courtroom was crowded to capacity. There were many standees and spectators stood in droves in the hallway outside.

At one stage the crush was so heavy a window was broken with a loud crash.

Judge Swango permitted newspapermen and spectators to remove their coats. It was very warm in the high-ceilinged, green-walled courtroom.

JURY SO FAR

Two large fans were in operation all day. The jurors so far accepted are:

Ed Devaney, a retired carpenter of Charleston, Miss.; L. L. Price of Charleston, an insurance man; J. A. Shaw, a farmer of Webb; Howard Armstrong, a farmer of Enid; Ray Tribble, a farmer of near Charleston; Davis Newton, a farmer of near Charleston; Bishop Mathews, another farmer of near Charleston; James Toole, a farmer of near Enid; George Holland, a farmer of Glendora; Travis Thomas a farmer of near Charleston.

Both prosecution and defense were allowed 12 peremptory challenges. The state exercised 11 of its challenges up to 4:30 when it announced the jury was acceptable to it.

Counsel for the defense then challenged two of the jurors in the box and they were excused and two others called for examination.

Judge Swango then announced it had been a long day and adjoured court until this morning.

Trial Set In Lynching

Afro American

Pair to face jury Monday

Sat. 9-17-55

SUMNER, Miss. — Two white men indicted in the murder of a 14-year-old colored boy who directed a "wolf whistle" at one of their wives, will go on trial Monday, Sept. 19.

The date was set by Circuit Judge Curtis Swango after both prosecution and defense attorneys said they saw no reason for delaying the trial of Roy Bryant, 24, and his half-brother, J. W. Milam.

The two are charged with kidnaping and killing Emmett Louis Till, of Chicago, because the boy whistled at Bryant's wife. Both admitted taking the boy from his house but denied killing him.

THE NAACP has charged the slaying was a lynching, and Thurgood Marshall, head of the NAACP's legal defense department, has assigned lawyers on the staff to gather all the facts in the brutal slaying and explore every possible angle for legal action.

"We cannot afford to leave any stone unturned in our effort to secure justice in this case," Mr. Marshall said, "but equally important is our responsibility to do everything humanly possible to prevent a repetition of this gruesome crime."

* * *

NO DECISION was made this week whether to try Bryant and Milam jointly or separately by Judge Swango, who said he would draw a special venire of 125 names of Tallahatchie County voters for selection of the jury.

The death penalty is mandatory for convicted murderers unless the jury recommends mercy. No women may serve on the jury because it is prohibited by state law.

* * *

DISTRICT ATTORNEY Gerald Chatham of Hernando said Thursday night that he would invite Mrs. Mamie Bradley, mother of the slain boy, to be present at the trial.

"In the telegram, I plan to express my personal regret and the regret of the state concerning the unfortunate death of her son," Chatham said.

"I will tell her that I think it is important to the state's case that she appear and certain evidence she can give would be very important."

Chatham added that he would promise Mrs. Bradley any "reasonable protection" she might feel that she needs.

* * *

IN CHICAGO, when Mrs. Bradley was told she would be invited to the trial, she said: "If it is necessary to go, I'll go. But she added she would be guided by her legal advisors. She has given the NAACP Chicago branch power of attorney.

William H. Huff, the local NAACP lawyer, said his immediate reaction was that she should go, adding:

"You know how things are in Mississippi ... I wouldn't object to her going. In fact, I think I would recommend it."

MRS. BRADLEY stated that if she did go to Mississippi, she would ask to be accompanied by two Chicago policemen as bodyguards. Although she has received no threats in Chicago, she said that at her own request a policeman is guarding her 24 hours a day.

The mother revealed that she has received more than $4,000 from all parts of the country from those who sympathize with her in the loss of her son.

* * *

MEANWHILE, from Washington comes reports that the Department of Justice continues to commit itself wholeheartedly to a thorough cleanup of an obviously bad situation in Mississippi.

Asst. Atty. Gen. Warren Olney, head of the department's criminal division, said "appropriate action" will be taken if investigation should prove Mississippi officials have permitted violations of civil rights.

However, Olney told officials of the NAACP that the department is not prepared to commit itself beyond that point.

Mississippi officials have not tried to hide actions designed to keep colored citizens away from the polls and have announced they will not tolerate "interference" by the Justice Department.

Attorney General Coleman, Saturday, appointed a former FBI agent, Robert B. Smith 3rd, special prosecutor in the trial of Bryant and Milam.



HER 14-YEAR-OLD SON LYNCHED IN MISSISSIPPI—Weeping bitterly, Mrs. Mamie Bradley of Chicago is assisted from Roberts Temple after funeral services for her son, Emmett. Left, Bishop Louis Ford; right, Bishop Isaik Roberts, of Church of God in Christ.

Negro Boy's Body Found; White Men Face Charges

Newark Observer

GREENWOOD, Miss., Aug. 31 (AP)—The weighted body of a 14-year-old Negro boy, kidnaped three days ago because he made "ugly remarks" to a white woman, was found today in the Tallahatchie River here.

Thurs. 9-1-55

Emmitt Louis Till, Chicago boy visiting his uncle at nearby Money, had a bullet wound above the right ear.

Murder Kidnaping Charges.

Sheriff George Smith of Leflore County said two white men already charged with kidnaping, would be charged with murder. They are Roy Bryant, Money storekeeper, and his half-brother, J. W. Milam of Glendora.

Sheriff Smith said Bryant admitted taking the boy from his uncle's home but said Till was released unharmed.

Till's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley of Chicago, sobbed:

"Somebody is going to pay for this. The entire State of Mississippi is going to pay for this.

"I can't think; I just can't think. I'm frozen.

He didn't do anything to deserve that."

The National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People said Till's death looks like a lynching and demanded vigorous prosecution.

Roy Wilkins, NAACP's executive secretary issued a bitter statement in New York, asserting:

"It would appear from this lynching that the State of Mississippi has decided to maintain white supremacy by murdering children. The killers of the boy felt free to lynch him because there is in the entire state no restraining influence of decency, not in the state capital, among the daily newspapers, the clergy nor any segment of the so-called better citizens."

Till was visiting his uncle, tenant farmer Mose Wright, when he was kidnaped Sunday morning. A deputy sheriff said Till "must have been killed Sunday, shortly after the kidnaping."

Till was buried this afternoon at Money. His body was in such bad shape it couldn't be shipped to Chicago for burial, a funeral home attendant said.

The youth allegedly made "ugly remarks" to Mrs. Bryant, the storekeeper's wife, last week. He was kidnaped early Sunday.

A teen-aged boy, fishing in the Tallahatchie River spotted Till's body caught in a drift. His feet and legs stuck above the water.

Sheriff H.C. Strider of Tallahatchie County said, "We went down and found the body hung in a drift. We kept working around and finally released it and pulled it to the bank.

"We found a bullet hole one inch above his right ear. The left side of his face had been cut up or beat up—plumb into the skull."

The body was found in Tallahatchie County. The kidnaping happened in adjoining Leflore County.

The site was on Pecan Point of the river, about 12 miles north of Money and 25 miles north of Greenwood.

The FBI in Washington said it was keeping in contact with Sheriff Smith, but had not taken part in the case since there was no showing of a federal law violation.

The FBI could enter the case if there were evidence of violation of civil rights laws or if the kidnaping involved crossing a state line.

Death Penalty.

Murder and kidnaping carry a maximum penalty of death in Mississippi's gas chamber.

Till went to Bryant's Store Saturday night with several other Negro youths. He entered the store and allegedly made some obscene remark to Mrs. Bryant. Officials said they do not know what the remark was.

Another Negro boy entered the store and brought out Till.

Early Sunday, two white men and a woman drove to the Wright home and asked for the "boy from Chicago." The men entered the house and returned with Till. The woman remained in the automobile.

Wright asked where they were taking his nephew. "Nowhere if he's not the right one," one of the men answered. They took Till to the car and asked the woman if Till were the right boy. She said he was and the men placed him in the car and they drove away.

Sheriff Smith said he thought earlier three men were involved but now is satisfied there were only two. He is continuing his search for the woman but said his chances seem slim since Wright did not see her.



Body found in river—The weighted body of a 14-year-old Negro boy from Chicago, Emmitt Louis Till (left), was pulled from the Tallahatchie River at Greenwood, Miss., yesterday. The boy, pictured with his mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley of Chicago, was kidnaped four days ago after he made "ugly remarks" to a white woman. The boy, who had been visiting an uncle, died of a bullet wound above the right ear. (AP wirephoto.)

NAACP looses blast—

Body of kidnap victim, 14, is found in Mississippi

News Scimitar Memphis Press

GREENWOOD, Miss., Sept. 1—(AP)—The National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People charges Mississippi "has decided to maintain white supremacy by murdering children."

Thurs. 9-1-55

The charges came after the body of Emmitt Louis Till, 14-year-old Chicago Negro, was found in Tallahatchie River 12 miles north of the Money community yesterday.

A deputy sheriff said he had been shot in the head shortly after he was abducted from an uncle's home after reportedly making "ugly remarks" to a white woman in her husband's store at Money.

Charged with kidnaping are Roy Bryant, the storekeeper, and his half-brother, J. W. Milam of Glendora. Sheriff George Smith of Leflore County said they would be charged with murder.

Smith said Bryant admitted taking the boy from his uncle's home, but said Till was released later unharmed.

SHORTLY AFTER the body was found, Executive Secretary Roy Wilkins of the NAACP in New York issued his statement charging white supremacy by murder.

He also charged:

"The killers of the boy felt free to lynch him because there is in the entire state no restraining influence of decency, not in the state capital, among the daily newspapers, the clergy nor any segment of the so-called better citizens."

In Chicago, Till's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley, sobbed, "The entire state of Mississippi is going to pay for this."

Tuskegee probes slayings

as possible lynchings

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Sept. 1—(AP)—After a three-year period in which no lynchings were recorded in the United States, Tuskegee Institute is investigating three recent Mississippi slayings which might fall in that category.

No lynchings have been officially recorded by Tuskegee Institute in its annual report since 1951.

Officials of the famed Negro college said an investigation will be made into the death at Greenwood, Miss., of 14-year-old Emmitt Louis Till, who was kidnaped last Sunday and shot for making "ugly remarks" to a white woman.

TENTATIVELY listed as lynchings by Tuskegee and still under investigation are the deaths earlier this year in Mississippi by two other Negroes—George W. Lee and Lamar D. Smith.

For the first time since the lynch reporting system was organized by Tuskegee in the 1890's, no lynchings were recorded in the nation in 1952.

Both victims in the other two cases listed as tentative lynchings had been active in seeking to qualify Negroes to vote in Mississippi.

OFFICERS PRESS HUNT IN SLAYING OF NEGRO

Com. Appeal

Governors Ask Full Inquiry—Tallahatchie Officers In Door-To-Door Search

Picture on Page 18

Special to The Commercial Appeal

GREENWOOD, Miss., Sept. 2—Authorities continued their investigation Friday into the slaying of a 14-year-old Chicago Negro, spurred on by comments from the governors of Mississippi and Illinois.

Sheriff H. C. Strider of Tallahatchie County said officers were making a minute check of the area bordering the Tallahatchie River in an effort to pin-point the spot where Emmett Till was slain.

Two Remain In Jail.

"We are conducting door-to-door questioning to find someone who may have seen the suspects Sunday morning. So far, we haven't been able to find anything," the sheriff said.

Roy Bryant, 22, merchant at Money, Miss., and his half-brother, J. W. Milam, 36, are in Leflore County Jail here on kidnap charges in connection with the disappearance Sunday of the boy from the home of his uncle, Mose Wright, near Money.

The body, weighted with a heavy gin fan, was found in the Tallahatchie River Wednesday. He had been shot above the right ear and beaten, apparently with an ax, officers said.

Bryant admitted taking the boy from his uncle's home to question him about "whistling" at Mrs. Bryant in the Bryant store, Leflore County Sheriff George Smith said. Bryant told officers he released Till when he found the Negro was not the right one.

News

Know Where She Is

Leflore County Deputy Sheriff [illegible] A. Shanks said the sheriff's office didn't believe Mrs. Bryant was "involved in the crime." "We know where she is and feel sure we can pick her up if needed," the deputy said.

Dist. Atty. Gerald Chatham of Hernando has said he will seek murder indictments next week against the two men. Mr. Chatham said he would present the case to the Tallahatchie County Grand Jury which convenes Monday at Sumner.

Gov. William G. Stratton of Illinois and Mississippi Gov. Hugh White have called for a "complete investigation" into the crime.

Mayor Daley of Chicago has asked the Justice Department to enter the case. The department has, however, maintained no official interest in the case.

The boy's body was returned to Chicago today for funeral services.

Governor Vows Federal Probe To Find Killer Of Negro Boy

Memphis Press-Scimitar

GREENWOOD, Miss., Sept. 1 (AP)—The governor of Mississippi today called for a complete investigation of the kidnap-killing of a bubble-gum-chewing Negro youth who allegedly wolf-whistled at a white woman.

Gov. Hugh White told newsmen, "Mississippi deplores such conduct on the part of any of its citizens and certainly can not condone it."

In a telegram to the National

Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People in New York, the governor said: "Parties charged with the murder are in jail. I have every reason to believe that the courts will do their duty in prosecution."

Fri, 9-2-55

Bullet Behind Ear

A bullet behind the ear killed 15-year-old Emmitt Louis Till soon after he was taken early Sunday morning from the tenant farm home of his uncle Mose Wright. The kidnaping came a few hours after Till was reported to have whistled the two notes of the wolf call at Mrs. Roy Bryant, wife of a white storekeeper near Money, Miss., deep in the delta plantation country.

Pic 8-A

The storekeeper and his half-brother, J. W. Milam of Glendora, Miss., are held in Leflore County jail in connection with the kidnaping and slaying.

"This is not a lynching," said Gov. White, "it is straight out murder."

Montgomery Ala.

The governor said the sheriff of Leflore County, where the Chicago youth was abducted, and the sheriff of Tallahatchie County, where his body was found, have promised to "do everything to see that justice is done."

Authorities issued a kidnap warrant for the arrest of Mrs. Bryant, who was not at her Money home today.

Whistled At Women

A 16-year-old cousin of the dead boy, Maurice Wright, told newsmen today about the incident which preceded Till's death. He said the Chicago youth wolf-whistled at Mrs. Bryant when a group of Negro lads went to the store for bubble-gum.

"When he came out of the store, "I told him, 'Boy, you know better than that.' He just laughed."

Maurice said later, when two or three white men and a white woman came to his father's home, Mose Wright pleaded with the kidnapers not to take Emmitt away.

"Just take him out in the yard and whip him and I'll be satisfied," the uncle said.

Bryant has maintained to authorities that he released the boy later.

Yesterday the boy's body, battered and weighted with metal from a cotton gin, was found in the Tallahatchie River about 25 miles north of Greenwood across the line in Tallahatchie County. Authorities said they do not know where the killing took place, but the Tallahatchie grand jury was expected to get the case by Monday.

Fri. 9-1-55

Robert Patterson, executive secretary of the Assn. of Citizens Councils—groups organized to keep segregation in all walks of life—termed the youth's death "regrettable."

He emphasized that it was not in any way connected with prosegregation groups.

"One of the primary reasons for our organization is to prevent acts of violence," he said. "We are doing our best in spite of constant agitation and inflammatory statements by the NAACP and outside agitators."

In New York, Roy Wilkins, NAACP executive secretary, said Mississippi "has decided to maintain white supremacy by murdering children."

Dist. Atty. Gerald Chatham said in Hernando, Miss., the grand jury should consider the cases of Bryant and Milam by Tuesday at the latest. He said the trials—if the grand jury indicts—most likely will be held next March.

Two Accused Of Kidnaping Colored Boy

Memphis Tenn. Tues. 8-30-55

Racial Trouble Flares In Small Community Near Greenwood

GREENWOOD, Miss. — (AP) Sheriff George W. Smith charged two white men with kidnaping Monday in the abduction of a 15-year-old colored boy from Chicago who made "ugly remarks" to a white woman.

The boy's whereabouts "is still the $64 question," Sheriff Smith said. "I'm kinda scared there's been foul play."

He identified the two men charged as: Roy Bryant, a storekeeper at the nearby Money community, and Bryant's half-brother, J. W. Milam of Glendora.

A search continued for Emmett Louis Till of Chicago. The boy was visiting an uncle, Mose Wright, in the small community of Money.

Register

Seriff Smith said his investigation disclosed:

One of a group of colored youths entered Bryant's store at Money Saturday and made some "ugly remarks" to Mrs. Bryant.

Early Sunday a car containing three white men and a woman went to the Wright's home and asked if the boy from Chicago was there.

Two of the men entered the elderly tenant farmer's home and brought out Till. Wright asked them where they were taking him.

"Nowhere if he's not the right one," one of the white men replied.

Wright said he heard the men ask a woman in the car if Till was the right one. She said he was. Till was placed in the car and the men drove off.

The Sheriff said Bryant told him they returned to the store, where Bryant asked his wife if Till was the right boy. She said he was not, Bryant said, and Till was released at the store.

Mississippi Roundup—

Wolf-Whistle Murder Evidence Called 'Slim'

Post-Herald Birmingham Ala.

GREENWOOD, Miss., Sept. 4 —Mississippi officers today appeared at loggerheads over the investigation of the race slaying of young Emmett Till.

Sheriff H. C. Strider, in whose county the body of the 14-year-old Chicago Negro boy was discovered, said he believes the whole incident was a "planned" killing by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Mon. 9-5-55

He added he doesn't "see how" Storekeepers Roy Bryant and J. W. Milan can be indicted on the "slim evidence" now available.

Pic 16

Strider's comments came on the eve of the convening of a Grand Jury summoned to consider evidence against the two men charged with kidnaping the youth from the home of his uncle because he allegedly gave a "wolf whistle" in the presence of Bryant's attractive young wife.

Bryant, 30, and Milam, 36, were arrested following Till's disappearance from the home of his uncle, Moses Wright, a plantation tenant farmer, early last Sunday. They admitted kidnaping the boy but claimed they let him go unharmed.

Thousands Line Up To View Boy's Body

CHICAGO, Sept. 4 (U.P.) — Thousands of Negroes crowded into a church to gaze on the battered face of a 14-year-old boy who was killed in Mississippi because he allegedly whistled at a white woman.

The Roberts Temple of the Church of God in Christ was filled to its 1800 capacity more than an hour before the funeral was to begin.

Thousands of others stood in single file for a block on either side of the church, waiting their turn to view the body of Emmett Louis Till.

An hour before the funeral services, the minister said, more than $700 had been collected to obtain legal aid.

Till's body, weighted with a piece of cotton gin equipment, was discovered by fishermen Wednesday in the Tallahatchie River. He had been beaten and shot once through the head.

Leflore County authorities here said they had a "pat case" of kidnaping against the two men, and planned to submit their evidence to a grand jury in October. In neighboring Tallahatchie County, grand jury members were to hear "mostly circumstantial" information tomorrow.

Strider injected added controversy into the Till incident by stating he did not believe the body pulled from the river was that of Till. "He didn't look like the picture that was run in a Jackson, Miss., newspaper," he said.

Leflore Deputy John Ed Cothran "completely disagreed" with Strider and said "Emmett's uncle definitely identified the body as the boy. I was with him when he did it."

Cothran also said he had a small silver-looking ring taken from the body by a Negro undertaker. The ring contained an engraving, "May 25, 1943, L. T." Cothran said the uncle, Moses Wright, told him the initials stood for Louis Till. Louis is the boy's middle name.

Chicagoans Ask Probe Of Till Lynch-Murder

Daily World Fri. 10-4-55

Pic 2

WASHINGTON—(ANP)—A Chicago delegation of church people called upon high government officials last week to investigate the kidnaping and killing of Emmett Louis Till in Mississippi and to take action to end racial discrimination.

Atlanta, Ga.

VAIN ATTEMPTS

The group of 32 persons representing the Afro-American Congress of Christian Organizations made vain attempts to see Vice President Nixon and Atty. Gen. Brownell.

They picketed the White House for two hours carrying signs which read, "A Christian Crusade for Equal Rights," "Give Us Liberty-Noth Death," "Down With the Cotton Curtain," and "We Died in Korea, We Demand to Live Here."

Leaving the White House, they journeyed to Capitol Hill where they had been promised an appointment with Robert King, administrative assistant to the Vice President.

Upon their arrival, under heavy police guard, they were forced to stand in the corridor at the Senate Office Building with only two persons admitted to the Vice President's office. There they were informed that King had been called to the White House for a conference and there was nobody in authority for them to talk with.

ANTI-LYNCHING

The two representatives of the group left a verbal message with one of the receptionists, Miss Dorothy Cox, to be passed on to proper authorities. The message was a simple request that the Vice President call an extra session of Congress to pass anti-lynching and anti-poll tax laws.

Traveling by chartered bus from the Capitol to the Justice department, the delegation was followed by three cars bearing policemen and plainclothesmen and six motorcycle police.

At the Justice Department they were held in the corridor under heavy uniformed building-guards and municipal policemen while only six were permitted to talk with A. B. Caldwell, chief of the Civil Rights Division.

These spokesmen reported to the group that they were no more satisfied after talking to Caldwell than they were before. "We are still dissatisfied, discontented and angry," stated Augustus Savage, editor of the American Negro magazine.

The delegation was composed of seven ministers representing the Baptists, Methodists and Church of God in Christ.

Dr. C. H. Harding, pastor of Victory Baptist Church, Chicago, was chairman of the delegation. Other ministers were the Rev. J. Cooper; the Rev. Ivory Scott, pastor of Mt. Joy Baptist Church; the Revs. Arthur Rogers, associate minister, Victory Baptist Church; Robert Mills, Ebenezer Baptist; Oswald Champagne, Mt. Joy Baptist; Albin Radley, Little Zion Baptist and Albert Gordon, Church of God in Christ.

8868

Great Uncle of Till Boy Replaces His Mother, Mrs. Bradley on Speaking Tour

by staff writer
Des Moines, Iowa
Thurs. 11-17-55

New York — Following failure of Mrs. Mamie Bradley, mother of Emmett Till, to undertake a tour of West Coast cities in accordance with terms agreed upon with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Roy Wilkins, NAACP executive secretary, announced termination of NAACP sponsorship of any future meetings for her and substitution of Moses Wright for the far west tour.

Terms Agreed

Mrs. Bradley was scheduled to leave Chicago on Nov. 7 for a series of 11 NAACP-sponsored meetings in Washington, Oregon, California, Arizona, Nevada, Utah and Colorado. However, on that day, she informed the NAACP, through Mrs. Anna Crockett, her personal representative, that she would not make the tour unless given a flat fee of $5,000 plus all expenses or a lesser guarantee plus expenses and one-third of all funds collected at the meetings.

Early in October, Mrs. Bradley came to the national office of the NAACP and asked for Association sponsorship of her appearances. Terms were agreed upon and Mrs. Bradley spoke under auspices of NAACP branches in a number of eastern and midwestern cities.

Mr. Wright, great uncle of the slain Chicago boy, was secured to replace Mrs. Bradley on the western tour. As previously scheduled, Mrs. Ruby Hurley, NAACP southeast regional secretary, is also addressing the series of meetings.

Mr. Wright was flown to Seattle for the opening meeting on Nov. 9, after having testified the previous day before the LeFlore County grand jury in the kidnap charges against Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam who had admitted taking the boy from his uncle's home on the night of August 28. The all-white grand jury refused to return an indictment.

In announcing the termination of the arrangement with Mrs. Bradley, Mr. Wilkins said that "NAACP does not handle such matters on a commercial basis."

Moses Wright To Fill Speaking Dates Left By Till's Mother

World 11-19-55
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NEW YORK — Following failure of Mrs. Mamie Bradley, mother of Emmett Till, to undertake a tour of West Coast cities in accordance with terms agreed upon with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Roy Wilkins, NAACP executive secretary, announced termination of NAACP sponsorship of any future meetings for her and substitution of Moses Wright for the far west tour

Mrs. Bradley was scheduled to leave Chicago on Nov. 7 for a series of 11 NAACP-sponsored meetings in Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, Arizona, Utah and Colorado. However ,on that day, she informed the NAACP, through Mrs. Anna Crockett, her personal representative, that she would not make the tour unless given a flat fee of $5,000 plus all expenses or a lesser guarantee plus expenses and one-third of all funds collected at the meetings

Earlier in October, Mrs. Bradley came to the national office of the NAACP and asked for Association sponsorship of her appearances. Terms were agreed upon and Mrs. Bradley spoke under auspices of NAACP branches in a number of eastern and midwestern cities.

Mr. Wright, great uncle of the slain Chicago boy, was secured to replace Mrs. Bradley on the western tour. As previously scheduled, Mrs. Ruby Hurley, NAACP southeast regional secretary ,is also addressing the series of meetings. Mr. Wright was flown to Seattle for the opening meeting on Nov. 9, after having testified the previous day before the LeFlore County grand jury in the kidnap charges against Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam who had admitted taking the body from his uncle's home on the night of August 28. The all-white grand jury refused to return an indictment.

Mississippi Doctor Touring For NAACP On Till Murder

Des Moines, Iowa
Sun. 11-20-55

Washington, D. C.—(CNS) — Dr. T. R. M. Howard, who operates a hospital in Mound Bayou, Miss.—the all-Negro community 30 miles from the scene of the Emmett Till "trial" is touring the country for the NAACP speaking on race violence in the south.

Dr. Howard was in the courtroom throughout the trial in Money, Miss. He is hoping to arouse a vigorous protest from Negroes against "mississippism."

8869

NAACP Drops Mrs. Bradley

Rift With Mother of Slain Till

But Chicagoan Initiates Move To Heal Split

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Announcement that relations with Mrs. Bradley were severed came from Wilkins, following her request for $5,000 for her appearance at 11 meetings or "a small guarantee plus one third of the proceeds plus all expenses."

"The NAACP does not handle such matters on a commercial basis," Wilkins said. "The tour will proceed with Mrs. Ruby Hurley, who attended the (Emmett) Till trial at Sumner, Miss., and helped secure additional witnesses and Moses Wright, uncle of the slain boy."

Mrs. Bradley has made numerous speeches in the midwest and on the east coast on behalf of the NAACP since her son's mutilated body was found last Aug. 30.

Wilkins said that under the first arrangements, funds raised on Mrs. Bradley's tour would have gone to the NAACP treasury for use in its program of raising Negro standards in the South.

In Chicago, Mrs. Bradley said she is not engaged in a fight with the NAACP. She said she made the request and thought she deserved some renumeration, above expenses, since she had devoted more than two months of her time to the NAACP and bills were piling up.

The $5,000 fee, according to Mrs. Bradley, was suggested by two West Coast NAACP officials during a television conversation last week. She identified the officials as Franklin Williams and Rev. Sylvester Odum.

Mrs. Bradley wrote Wilkins on Wednesday, explaining her side of the issue. Her letter was considered a bid by Mrs. Bradley to cement the split between her and the NAACP and to "smooth over" the differences which resulted in a cancellation of her western tour.

"It was financially impossible for me to continue the way I have been during the past two months," Mrs. Bradley told the Associated Negro Press in Chicago.

She called the NAACP "the only group through which the Negro can fight racial injustices," and said she was anxious to "smooth over" any discord which resulted over her request for additional fees.

After receiving a letter from William Henry Huff, her NAACP attorney, in which he announced his resignation, Mrs. Bradley said it will be "impossible" for her to push her $100,000 suit against the state of Mississippi for the murder of her son.

Mr. Wright, great uncle of the slain Chicago boy, was secured to replace Mrs. Bradley on the western tour. As previously scheduled, Mrs. Ruby Hurley, NAACP southeast regional secretary, is also addressing the series of meetings.

Mr. Wright flew to Seattle for the opening meeting on Nov. 9, after having testified the previous day before the LeFlore county grand jury in the kidnap charges against Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam who had admitted taking the boy from his uncle's home on the night of August 28. The all-white grand jury refused to return an indictment.

Mrs. Bradley To Heal Differences With NAACP

CHICAGO — (ANP) — A bid by Mrs. Mamie Bradley, to cement the recent split between her anr the NAACP is expected to be acted upon this week by Roy Wilkins, the Associated Negro Press learned.

Mrs. Bradley, whose 14 year old son was slain in Mississippi last August, has written the NAACP's executive secretary in an effort to "smooth over" their differences which resulted in a cancellation of her western tour.

Announcement that relations with Mrs Bradley were severed came from Wilkins, following her request for $5,000 for her appearance at 11 meetings or "a small guarantee plus one third of the proceeds plus all expenses."

"The NAACP does not handle such matters on a commercial basis, "Wilkins said. "The tour will proceed with Mrs. Ruby Hurley, who attended the (Emmitt) Till trial at Sumner, Miss., and helped secure additional witnesses."

Mrs. Bradley has made numerous speeches in the midwest and on the East Coast on behalf of NAACP since her son's mutilated body was found last August 30.

Wilkins said Mrs. Bradley had agreed early in October to terms including all expenses for herself and her father.

He said that under the first arrangements, funds raised on Mrs. Bradley's tour would have gone to the NAACP treasury for use in its program of raising Negro standards in the South.

In Chicago, Mrs. Bradley said she is not engaged in a fight with the NAACP. She said she made the request and thought she deserved some remuneration, above expenses, since she had devoted more than two months of her time to the NAACP and bills were piling up.

Mrs. Bradley Says Fee NAACP Idea

Mrs. Mamie Bradley blamed a misunderstanding for the cancellation of her proposed tour of west coast cities last week by the N. A. A. C. P.

The Chicagoan had made numerous personal appearances in the midwest and on the east coast in behalf of the NAACP since her son, 14-year-old Emmett Louis Till, was found slain in Mississippi several months ago.

William Henry Huff, attorney for Mrs. Bradley, quit last Tuesday after Roy Wilki.., executive secretary of the NAACP, announced that Mrs. Bradley was being dropped from the west coast tour because she asked a fee.

Later last week the NAACP announced that Moses Wright, uncle of the slain Till boy, and a star witness in the murder trial, would accompany Mrs. Ruby Hurley, N. A. A. C. P. southeast regional secretary, on the tour.

Mrs. Anna B. Crockett, special representative of and secretary to Mrs. Bradley, told the Defender that the controversial $5,000 fee was not requested by Mrs. Bradley but was suggested by west coast officials of the NAACP in a telephone conversation. She identified the officials as Franklin Williams, regional secretary-counsel, and Rev. Sylvester Odum.

HUFF'S LETTER

Huff, in his letter of resignation to Mrs. Bradley, said in part:

"In that this case was referred to my office by the NAACP and in that you and the association have apparently parted company it would be impossible for me to continue as attorney for you being as you are not associated with the organization."

Huff is chairman of the local Redress committee of the N. A. A. C. P.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Crockett said Wilkins informed Mrs. Bradley by telegram last Monday night that her air transportation and speaking engagements would be cancelled.

Wilkins said the decision was made because Mrs. Bradley asked a $5,000 fee for 11 appearances. The NAACP does not handle such matters on a commercial basis, Wilkins said.

Mrs. Crockett said Mrs. Bradley wants it made clear that she is not engaged in a fight with the NAACP and had her bags packed when Wilkins telegrammed her.

Mrs. Crockett said Mrs. Bradley felt she should receive some remuneration, above expenses, for the west coast appearances, since she had devoted most of her time to the NAACP and bills were piling up.

ASKS FEE

Mrs. Bradley did suggest a $100 fee per meeting plus one-third of the receipts, Mrs. Crockett told the Defender.

She said Mrs. Bradley had been going constantly for several weeks and had only received expenses from the NAACP and had to pay her own hospital bill when she suffered a nervous breakdown.

In addition, Mrs. Crockett told the Defender, numerous checks that were given to Mrs. Bradley personally were signed over to the NAACP.

Mrs. Bradley's father quit his job to travel with her.

Mrs. Crockett said Mrs. Bradley was being "worn to a frazzle" by the schedule she had been following in behalf of the NAACP and that friends advised her to inform officials of the organization that she could not make the western tour without adequate remuneration.

Wright and Mrs. Hurley were scheduled to speak in Seattle, Portland, Sacramento, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Diego, Phoenix, Las Vegas and Fres-

no before ending their tour on Nov. 21. They flew to Seattle early last week after Wright testified in Greenwood, Miss. at a grand jury hearing into the kidnapping of his nephew.

NAACP Blocked In Till Case

Defender

Chicago Ill

NEW YORK — In response to numerous inquiries from all sections of the country about the role of the NAACP in the Emmett Till case, Roy Wilkins, the association's executive secretary, has announced a seven-point program of action to meet the Mississippi situation.

Ref. 11-5-55

Thurgood Marshall, NAACP special counsel, has issued a statement explaining the limitations imposed upon the NAACP in legal action in the case.

"First," Marshall said, "t h e prosecution in the Till case, as in other criminal cases, is in the hands of the local law enforcement officers.

"A private agency, such as the NAACP, has no role in the prosecution of such a case beyond assisting in obtaining witnesses.

"The NAACP, along with Dr. T. R. M. Howard of Mound Bay Miss., and certain newspaper correspondents did uncover some witnesses.

NO APPEAL

"Secondly, there can be no appeal nor any new trial of Bryant and Milam, who have been acquitted of the murder of Emmett Till. This is a basic fact in American law which prohibits 'double jeopardy'.

"Thirdly, the NAACP will not be able to participate in the prosecution of the accused in the kidnap trial when and if it is held.

"And finally, under existing law, the U. S. Department of Justice says it cannot enter the Till case either on the murder of kidnap charge. The Lindbergh kidnap law applies only to cases in which the victim is transported across a state line."

While the association's hands are tied so far as legal action is concerned, "there are many things that can be done and must be done in order to prevent a repetition of the Till atrocity," Wilkins points out.

FUNDS NEEDED

There is a continuing need for funds to help clean up the Mississippi situation, he asserts. According to the NAACP l e a d e r, present plans call for a program of action to:

1. Fight revival of lynch terror; 2. s e c u r e enactment of civil rights bills pending the Congress; 3. obtain more adequate law enforcement with equal protection for all citizens.

4. Remove racial restrictions on the franchise; 5. accelerate compliance with the Supreme Court edict banning racial segregation in public schools;

6. End economic reprisals against Negro citizens demanding their constitutional rights; and 7. eliminate racial discrimination from all phases of American life.

MONEY NEEDED

This is a long-range program, Wilkins points out.

"Money is needed for lobbying, for research, for literature, for political and educational action.

"The NAACP is the organization most feared by southern bigots," Wilkins asserts, "as witness the attacks by Atty. Gen. Eugene Cook of Georgia, Assistant Attorney General of North Carolina, the Lt. Gov. of South Carolina and others. They are out to destroy the NAACP

"This imposes upon all of us who believe in democracy, the responsibility of strengthening the organization."

Tour Canceled

The NAACP has announced that the exhibition tour of Mrs. Mamie Bradley, mother of the slain Emmet Till, will be canceled. Mrs. Bradley was to have appeared at 11 meetings in the Midwest, the original purpose of which was to raise money to elevate Negro standards in the South, as the NAACP explained it.

Under the terms of the tour agreement, Mrs. Till was to receive $500 plus expenses for each appearance. In canceling the tour, the NAACP explained that the organization "does not handle such matters on a commercial basis."

And possibly this policy question, with the attendant fear perhaps of losing tax-exempt status, was the chief reason for the cancellation. But at least a contributing factor must have been the revelation after the Till trial that the boy's father did not, as had been said, die a hero's death fighting for American freedom, but was instead executed for rape and murder in Italy.

The father's crime is in no way extenuation for the savage murder of young Till. Nor does it in any way besmirch Mrs. Bradley, although it tends to lessen her value to NAACP as a touring martyr. But the South as a section no more shares the guilt of the Till murder than young Till and his mother share the guilt in Italy of their executed husband and father. Yet, precisely this—a murder committed not by one or two men, but by a region—was the contemptible lie NAACP was trying to propagate by the carnival-like exhibition of the bereaved mother.

NAACP cancels tour of Till's mother

NEW YORK, Nov. 8—(AP)—The National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People announced that Mrs. Mamie Bradley, mother of 14-year-old Emmet Louis Till who was slain in Mississippi last Summer, will not appear in a scheduled tour of Western cities.

Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the association, said Mrs. Bradley asked for $500 for her appearance at 11 meetings or "a small guarantee plus one third of the proceeds plus all expenses."

"The NAACP does not handle such matters on a commercial basis," Wilkins said in a statement. "The tour will proceed with Mrs. Ruby Hurley, who attended the Till trial at Sumner, Miss., and helped secure additional witnesses." The tour opens in San Francisco Nov. 9.

A jury acquitted two men of the slaying of Till in a trial at Sumner. The verdict has been under attack by the NAACP and other groups.

Wilkins said that Mrs. Bradley, of Chicago, had agreed early in October to terms including all expenses for herself and her father.

He said that under the first arrangement with Mrs. Bradley, funds raised on the tour would have gone to the NAACP treasury for use in its program of raising Negro standards in the South.

Till's Mother's West Coast Tour Dropped

NEW YORK, Nov. 8—(U.P.)—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People cancelled today a West Coast tour of Mrs. Mamie Bradley, mother of Emmett Till, the Negro boy killed in the Greenwood, Miss., "wolf-whistle" case.

Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the NAACP, said the tour was cancelled because "the NAACP does not handle such matters on a commercial basis."

Wilkins said a Mrs. Crockett, a "personal representative and secretary" to Mrs. Bradley, talked with West Coast NAACP office and announced Mrs. Bradley would appear only for a guarantee of $5000 or a small guarantee plus one-third of the collections and expenses.

The NAACP official said the tour would proceed as scheduled with Mrs. Ruby Hurley, Southeast regional secretary at Birmingham, Ala., who attended the trial last Summer, as a speaker.

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8871

Five Witnesses to Testify Against Two in Till Trial

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 22 (AP).—Five surprise witnesses and the victim's mother testify for the State today in the trial of two white men accused of killing a 14-year-old Chicago Negro boy.

District Attorney Chatham—still withholding names of the last-minute witnesses—said they can place Roy Bryant, 24, and his half-brother, J. W. Milam, 36, near the spot where the body of Emmett Louis Till was pulled from the Tallahatchie River.

Mrs. Mamie Bradley of Chicago, the slain boy's mother, is expected to bolster identification of the body, which was reported shot, beaten and weighted with a cotton gin fan.

New Death Site Hinted

While the trial entered its fourth day, in the Tallahatchie County Courthouse, District Attorney Stanny Sanders in adjoining Sunflower County said he was investigating a story which indicated young Till was killed on a plantation near Drew, Miss.

This presented the possibility the trial was being held in a county in which the killing did not take place.

Three witnesses for the State yesterday pointed identifying fingers at Bryant and Milam.

After defense objections, Sheriff George Smith of adjoining Leflore County, where the boy was kidnaped, testified Bryant admitted taking Till from his uncle's home during the night, but said he released him unharmed.

Deputy Sheriff John Ed Cothran followed with testimony that Milam also admitted snatching the boy from his bed August 28, and also insisting he was released unharmed.

Bryant and Milam are accused of kidnaping young Till and murdering him because he allegedly whistled or made off-color remarks to Mrs. Bryant.

Uncle Accuses Two

At yesterday's trial session Mose Wright, the boy's sharecropper uncle, pointed a finger at the balding Milam and declared, "There he is"—one of two men who entered Mr. Wright's cottonfield shack to get young Till.

Then the 64-year-old Negro levelled his finger at Bryant and said he was the second man.

Sheriff Smith rattled off his description of a conversation with Bryant the afternoon of August 28.

The sheriff said Bryant told him "he went down there to his (Mr. Wright's) house and brought him (Till) up there to his store and he (Till) wasn't the right one and turned him loose."

The sheriff said Bryant admitted taking the boy for Mrs. Bryant to view, to see if he was the one who whistled at her three days before the kidnaping.

The curly-headed defendant, father of two young boys, said he spent the rest of the night playing cards with members of his family, the sheriff added.

Sheriff Smith and Deputy Cothran first testified with the jury out of the courtroom. Circuit Judge Curtis Swango then let the jury hear their testimony.

Mr. Cothran said he talked to Milam as he placed the defendant in a jail cell at Greenwood, county seat of Leflore County, where the kidnaping occurred.

"I asked him if you all went out to get the boy," Mr. Cothran



—AP Wirephoto

ROBERT HODGES
Found Slain Boy

related. "He said 'Yes,' but they put him out at the store."

The sheriff and his deputy said neither Bryant nor Milam said whether the other accompanied him to get Till.

Neither defendant has signed a confession of kidnaping or murdering the boy. Both have pleaded not guilty.

During the afternoon trial session yesterday, Robert Hodges, 17-year-old fisherman, and B. L. Mims testified to finding and examining the Till boy's body in the Tallahatchie River August 31. Both live in the area where the body was found and Mr. Mims operates an outboard motorboat in the area.

They said the boy's legs were visible above the water, but the rest of the body was weighted down by the heavy cotton gin exhaust fan.

The State spent a good deal of time asking Mr. Cothran about the condition of young Till's body when taken from the river. He said the head "was torn up pretty bady." The left side above the ear was crushed, there were wounds on the top and front and there was a hole over the right ear. He declined, however, to compare the hole in the head to a bullet wound or any other specific object.

Asked if other parts of the body were mutilated, Mr. Cothran said no.

Courtroom Crowded

The courtroom in the old brick courthouse was crowded again yesterday, but practically everyone was sitting. Judge Swango halted the trial Tuesday afternoon, in part because of the fire danger created by packed spectators.

Representative Charles Diggs, Democrat of Michigan, returned for the second day to hear the opening testimony. The Negro Congressman said he merely is an observer at the trial.

Mr. Sanders quoted Dr. T. R. M. Howard, a physician in the all-Negro town of Mound Bayou, about 20 miles west of here, as saying he could produce witnesses who could testify that young Till probably was slain near Drew in a plantation shed. Drew is about 22 miles northwest of Money, Miss.

According to the Negro physician, the Sunflower County district attorney said, the informants told him they saw four white men, Till and two other Negroes arrive at the shed in a pickup truck on August 28.

After a series of screams from the shed, the informants continued, the truck drove away.

Mississippi's Till Case Left Much Unexplained

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 24 (AP).—The State of Mississippi apparently has not yet closed out its account with a 14-year-old Negro, Emmett Louis Till. One way or another, young Till looks today like part of Mississippi's future—as he already is part of its past.

Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam, the white half-brothers who were acquitted yesterday of Till's slaying, still face kidnaping charges in the August disappearance of the South Side Chicago boy.

Bryant and Milam are innocent of Till's murder by mandate of a jury which took one hour and seven minutes to reach a verdict.

Defense Attorney John Whitten said in a final summation in which he pleaded for an acquittal and not a conviction:

"I'm afraid we're condemned either way we go. We're damned if we do, we're damned if we don't."

Whistling Motive

Bryant and Milam were accused of taking young Till from the cottonfield shack of his uncle August 28. Originally, the State's pre-trial contention was the vacationing Chicago boy came into the Bryant's country store in Money, Miss., and whistled at pretty 21-year-old Mrs. Roy Bryant.

The State held this as the motive, in accusing Bryant and Milam of the kidnap-murder.

The defense contended it was more than a wolf whistle that confronted Mrs. Bryant in her August 24 encounter alone in the store with a Negro. Money is a crossroads country hamlet of five stores, a post office, a gasoline station and a cotton gin.

Mrs. Bryant testified Thursday in a soft voice, head down, that a Negro man—she didn't admit it was a boy and she didn't say it was Ernest Till—grabbed her by the hand and by the waist. She quoted him as saying:

"How about a date, baby? . . . What's the matter, baby? . . . Can't you take it? . . . You needn't be afraid of me."

Then, she continued, the Negro made indecent remarks keyed to the thesis he had "been with white women before." The wolf whistle followed all this.

Story Ruled Out

Mrs. Bryant's testimony, however, played no part in the case. Circuit Judge Curtis Swango, jr., ruled it inadmissible because it occurred four days before the crime and in his opinion was not proven to be related directly to it.

The jury never heard it.

Judge Swango allowed the testimony on the record in the jury's absence as a guide to any appeals court that might review his decision. Since the jury did not hear her, there was no reason for the State to cross-examine Mrs. Bryant. Her story, as she told it, stands.

Her testimony might have proved important to the defense. If need be, defense lawyers could have claimed Bryant and Milam abducted the boy but released him unharmed when they found he was the wrong Negro. They never were required, however, to use such an argument.

No Motive Testimony

The suppression from the jury of Mrs. Bryant's story left the State with little in the way of motive. The jury was left with no particular reason why the two defendants would want to kidnap and kill young Till.

Judge Swango, 47, has been on the bench four years after a career as a Mississippi legislator. He is urbane and a confident interpreter of the law. His decisions on points of law during the trial invariably were unhesitant.

The jury complimented District Attorney Gerald Chatham for his conduct of the case, although it denied him a conviction.

Mr. Chatham said before the testimony began:

"A substantial part of the State's case is circumstantial."

Circumstantial evidence is hard to sell to a jury—although juries can and do convict on nothing more. In this case, it meant no death weapon, no direct evidence on how young Till met death, no witnesses, no iron-clad legally admissible confession of murder and a very weak suggestion of motive.

That, then, was how the trial was conducted.

Little Investigation

What of the things that are reflected in a court of law—in criminal investigations that precede the legal arguments? Sumner, Miss. is a little town of 550 persons. Its sheriff is not equipped with big city crime detection apparatus. Its district attorney covers four counties and has no funds for investigators of his own.

Emmett Till was believed to have died with a bullet wound in his head. But the expert witness to this at his trial was Sheriff H. C. Strider of Tallahatchie County. The sheriff testified there was a hole in the boy's head about the size of a bullet hole, but he couldn't say whether it was a bullet hole. He probed into it with a stick but couldn't determine whether the hole penetrated the skull, he said.

Time of death was a key point in the Till case also. His body couldn't have been in the water more than three days—from his kidnapping August 28 until the recovery of a body in the Tallahatchie River August 31. The defense claimed the Tallahatchie body had been in the water from eight to 25 days. On this vital point, the jury heard evidence from a small-town doctor who said he viewed the body but did not touch it, and a small-town undertaker, a high school graduate with one year of training in a mortuary college.

No Autopsy Conducted

There never was an autopsy on the Tallahatchie River body, now buried in a Chicago grave as young Till. A dissection of the body might have revealed many things—how long dead and how long it was in the water, how old the victim was, such distinguishing dental or physical marks that might be compared with Till. But the body was on its way back to Chicago almost before the investigation got under way.

The jury said the deciding factor in its acquittal of Bryant and Milam was this confusion over the identity of the Tallahatchie River body.

When the body was found, a 70-pound cotton gin exhaust fan was attached to it as a weight. There are so many cotton gins in the Delta that it might have been impossible to trace this fan, but no effort was made.

Milam was said to have carried a flashlight and a pistol to the

shack of Emmett Till's uncle the night the boy was abducted. Neither pistol nor flashlight was ever produced in court by the State.

Bryant and Milam are now in the Leflore County Jail in Greenwood, where the next action in the case will take place.

Leflore County Sheriff George Smith said no date had been set for a preliminary hearing on the kidnapping charges. Officers said the men probably will be held without bond until the hearing.

The Leflore County grand jury will study the case during its November session.

Emmett Till Reached For Ring, Then Hurried Into 'Oblivion'

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 23 (AP)—Almost two months ago Emmett (Bobo) Till, 14-year-old Chicago Negro boy, reached into his mother's jewelry box, pulled out his dead father's signet ring and rushed to meet his Uncle Mose.

Mose Wright, Mississippi sharecropper, waited impatiently at Chicago's 63rd Street station. If Bobo didn't show up soon, he'd miss his vacation.

Although Bobo "like to got left," as Uncle Mose recalls, he finally made it. That brought death and the most sensational murder trial in recent Mississippi history.

In Missippi, Bobo stayed at Uncle Mose's cottonfield shack near Money. On Aug. 24, Bobo and a group of young Negroes decided to buy some bubble gum at a grocery store in Money. Bobo entered the store alone.

"How About A Date"

Mrs. Roy Bryant later told a court a "Negro man came into the store ... He said, 'How about a date, baby?' ... put both hands around my waist. ... He said, 'What's the matter, baby, can't you take it?'

Another Negro came in and pulled him out of the store, Mrs. Bryant said. Later, the white woman said the first Negro wolf-whistled at her in front of the store.

Pistol In Hand

Negro youths have said it was Bobo who did the whistling.

When 24-year-old Roy Bryant returned home from a business trip to Brownsville, Tex., his wife told him about the incident. On Aug. 28 in the early morning hours, Mose Wright said he heard someone knocking on the door.

Wright opened the door and, in the darkness, saw two men. Although the only light came from a flashlight, Wright said he was sure one man was big and bald with a pistol in his hand. The sharecropper later identified him as John W. Milam, 36-year-old half-brother of Bryant.

Wright said the other man identified himself as Bryant. They told Wright they wanted to "see the boy who done that talk at Money."

The two men took Till out of bed. A few hours later, Negro witnesses testified, they saw a man who looked like Milam, a boy who looked like Till, three other white men and two other Negroes enter a shack at Drew in nearby Sunflower County. Mose's home was in Leflore County.

The witnesses said they heard "hollering" for a while and saw the big, bald man, who looked like Milam walk around with a gun on his hip.

Till did not return the next day and Sheriff George Smith of Leflore County talked to Bryant about the abduction. Deputy John E. Cothran talked to Milam.

According to the officers' testimony, both Bryant and Milam said they abducted the boy but released him when it turned out he wasn't the one who acted indecently to Mrs. Bryant. Sheriff Smith arrested both on kidnaping charges.

On Aug. 31, a fisherman found a Negro body in the Tallahatchie River of neighboring Tallahatchie County. The ring of Emmett Till's father was on the body. Sheriff H. C. Strider, however, said the body looked too badly decomposed to have been in the river only three days.

But, the boy's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley of Chicago, said the body positively was that of Till. Dist. Atty Gerald Chatham of Tallahatchie County decided to charge Bryant and Milam with murder. A grand jury indicted them both for murder and for kidnaping and Chatham moved for a quick trial.

Mississippi newspapers expressed outrage at the incident and demanded justice. At the same time, however, they directed some of their fire at the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People for terming the slaying a "lynching."

Last Monday, jury selection began. Chatham decided not to ask the death penalty because most of his evidence was circumstantial. Five defense lawyers, the entire bar of Sumner, appeared confident and indicated they would not place the defendants on the witness stand.

The state, which had the aide of a specially appointed assistant attorney general, decided to try Bryant and Milam on the murder indictment, saving the kidnaping indictment for a later date.

No "Prejudice"

All jurors swore racial prejudice would not influence their decision.

State witnesses offered mainly circumstantial evidence, with the big surprise testimony about Milam and young Till being seen in Sunflower County after the abduction.

The defense countered with an attack on the identification of the body. Sheriff Strider, an undertaker and a physician testified in their opinions the body had been in the water from eight to 25 days. Each said it was doubtful if not impossible to identify the body in its bloated, decomposed condition.

And, defense attorneys attacked identification of Milam and Bryant both at Wright's cotton-field shack and later at a plantation barn in adjoining Sunflower County. They pointed to poor light and distance as casting doubt on identifications.

In summation, the state called "the killing of Emmett Till ... a cowardly act." The defense told jurors "your forefathers will turn over in their graves" if Milam and Bryant are convicted.

Till's widow, William Henry Huff, said the information "may be true, but it has no bearing upon the case pending."

Huff, also an attorney for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, referred to the kidnap-slaying of 14-year-old Emmett Louis Till of Chicago during a visit to Mississippi.

Two white men — Roy Bryant, 24, and his half-brother, John W. Milam, 36, both of Money, Miss. — were acquitted of a charge of murdering the boy. They are free on bond on a charge of kidnaping.

Young Till's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley, said in Chicago she "received a telegram from the War Department telling me of my husband's death July 2, 1945, and saying that a letter would follow.

"I received the letter and it said that cause of death was 'wilful misconduct.'"

Mrs. Bradley said she never learned any other details of her husband's death. She later remarried.

"I have heard rumors," Mrs. Bradley said, "and I have tried to find out what actually happened. I wrote to the commanding officer, to the chaplain, and to (the late) President Roosevelt, but received no satisfaction."

The Daily News said some northern publications erroneously reported young Till's father died in World War II fighting.

The paper cited an editorial in the Oct. 10 issue of Life magazine as "typical of the unfounded statements." It quoted the editorial in part:

"Those in Sumner and elsewhere, who condone it (the murder) are in far worse danger than Emmett Till ever was. He had only his life to lose, and many others have done that, including his soldier-father who was killed in France fighting for the American proposition that all men are equal."

A body identified as young Till was pulled from the Tallahatchie River last Aug. 28, three days after the boy was taken from the sharecropper home of his uncle at night.

Officers did testify that Bryant and Milam admitted orally taking the boy from his uncle's home at Money, but said they released him unharmed.

A Greenwood, Miss., grand jury meets Nov. 7 to consider the kidnap charge.

Paper Says Slain Youth's Father Hanged in Italy

JACKSON, Miss., Oct. 14 (AP) — The Jackson Daily News said in a copyrighted story Friday that Louis Till, father of a Negro boy slain in Mississippi, was hanged for murder and rape in Italy during World War II.

The newspaper said records in Washington showed:

"Pvt. Louis Till of 177th Port Company was executed in Italy July 2, 1945, for murder and rape at age 24."

In Chicago, an attorney for

27a 1955

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STATE RESTS CASE IN YOUTH'S KILLING

N.Y. Times

Closing Witness Places Boy and a Defendant Together Morning of Kidnapping

Fri. 9-23-55

By JOHN N. POPHAM

Special to The New York Times.

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 22—This State completed today its case against two white men on trial for the kidnap-murder of Emmett Louis Till, 14-year-old Chicago Negro.

P.26

The closing testimony of the prosecution's witnesses came to a dramatic end as three Negroes from a cotton plantation area gave evidence that pointed to the likely scene of the killing, one of them putting Emmett and the defendant, J. W. Milam, 36 years old, in the vicinity.

A second item of tense drama gripped the crowded Tallahatchie County courtroom a few moments later when Circuit Judge Curtis M. Swango ruled that the jury could not hear the story of Mrs. Carolyn Bryant, 21-year-old wife of the other defendant, Roy Bryan, 24, a half-brother to Milam.

Judge Swango's decision was made from the bench after Mrs. Bryant had been permitted to testify in the absence of the jury that young Till, a week before his body was found, had embraced her and asked for "a date" while they were alone in a country store.

Defense Move Blocked

The prosecution successfully blocked presentation to the jury of Mrs. Bryant's testimony over vigorous debate by defense councel. During the arguments, Robert B. Smith 3d, special prosecutor declared "whatever happened there in the store is no justification for this murder and has no relevancy to the case that is on trial here."

The five defense attorneys, led by C. Sidney Carlton and J. J. Breland, argued before the court that a state witness had tseified that Milan forcibly seized young Tell after saying "I want the boy who dirty-talked at the store."

The lawyers maintained that this store incident was a necessary item of background and established a continuity of action that Milam was entitled to "explore."

Judge Swango declared that as he interpreted the law of evidence in Mississippi, testimony concerning an incident prior to the main crime in a capital case was admissible only if it dealt with the question of whether the deceased or the defendant was the aggressor or whether it concerned an overt act. Such was not the situation in the evidence before him, he held.

Mr. Smith and the lawyers associated with him in the prosecution, Gerald Chatham, circuit district attorney, and Hamilton Caldwell, Tallahatchie attorney, have impressed observers at the trial with the vigor and skill with which they have handled the state's case.

'Surprise' Witness Heard

They had withheld some testimony, largely repititious of earlier evidence, to prepare a record that would hold off the attempt of defense counsel to get Mrs. Bryant's story to the jury.

Willie Reed, a 19-year-old Negro student in the ninth grade, was the "surprise" witness of the prosecution's case. He was one of five "new witnesses" whose discovery on Tuesday resulted in an abrupt recess of the trial for a day. Three of the "new witnesses" gave testimony in court.

Young Reed, obviously under great strain and speaking so softly that he had to be told repeatedly by Judge Swango to lift his voice, swore that on the morning of the kidnapping he saw a boy, whom he recognized later from a photograph as Emmett Till, in the company of six men in a pickup truck driving along a country road in near-by Sunflower County.

He said that a few minutes later he passed a red barn on the property operated by Leslie Milam, brother of the defendant Milam, and saw the same pickup truck parked near the barn. He said that no one was in the truck, that he heard some shouts of "oh, oh" from the barn, heard the sound of "some licks" and saw the defendant, Milam, wearing a pistol, walk from the barn to a near-by well and get a drink of water.

Moses Wright, 64-year-old Negro sharecropper and grand-uncle of young Tell, yesterday identified Milam and Bryant as two of three men who came to Wright's home on Aug. 28 in predawn hours and kidnapped the boy. Mr. Wright said that Milam at the time carried a pistol and flashlight in his hands.

Recognized in Picture

Reed said he had never known young Tell, but that when news of the murder was published he saw a picture of the boy and recognized him as the boy who had been in the pick-up truck. He also identified a photograph of the boy, introduced as an exhibit in the trial by the victim's mother earlier in the day, as "featuring the boy in the truck."

The witness said he had seen the defendant Milam three or four times before the alleged kidnapping. He stood up from the witness chair and pointed out the defendant Milam to the court.

Under skillful cross-examination by J. W. Kellum, a defense attorney, the witness stuck to his story and the identification, but said that he was "about" 400 yards from the well when he saw Milam.

Mr. Smith on re-direct examination had Reed estimate distances in the courtroom, but Reed was unable to give any accurate measurements. Mr. Smith said later he was "sure a jury with nine farmers would doubt that a well located 400 from a barn when so much water has to be carried for chores."

Defense counsel moved twice to have the court exclude all of Reed's testimony as irrelevant and not competently connected with the actions of the defendants. Judge Swango overruled the objections each time.

Prosecution is Upheld

Defense counsel asked that Reed's testimony be excluded in the case of Bryant since that defendant was not named by Reed. Mr. Smith replied that since the defendants had chosen to stand trial together the proof would have to apply to both and Judge Swango upheld the prosecutor.

The two other "new witnesses" were Add Reed, 65-year-old grandfather of Willie Reed, and Mary (Mandy) Bradley, 50, who has a cabin near the home of Leslei Milam with a window view of Milam's red barn.

The older Reed said he had passed the Milam's barn that same morning and saw the pick-up truck parked near by. The Bradley woman said that Willie Reed came to her house that morning and that she later went to the window and saw the truck by the barn and four white men who "went in and out of the barn."

At this point the state rested its case, having called twelve witnesses since the trial started. Judge Swango denied requests of defense counsel for directed verdicts of acquittal, the court ruling that "ther ecord as a whole presents issues for determination of a jury."

MISSISSIPPI

Earlier in thed ay the prosecution called young Till's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley, 33, of Chicago, to the witness stand and she stoutly maintained that the dead body sent to her was that of her son. The boy's body, bludgeoned and shot in the head, was found in the Tallahatchie River on Aug. 31, but the defense has questioned whether the body was that of Emmett.

Mrs. Bradley was a composed and well-spoken witness. At one point Judge Swango excused the jury from the courtroom while he listened to defense questioning of Mrs. Bradley on the subject of whether she had told Emmett before his trip to his granduncle's home to "be humble to white people and watch your step." Judge Swango ruled that no such questions could be asked in the presence of the jury.

Mrs. Bryant was the first witness called by the defense. She wore a black dress with white collar and red sash. She is a pretty brunette. Judge Swango excused the jury again to hear the testimony and decide on its admissibility.

Defendant's Wife Testifies

Mrs. Bryant said that on Aug. 24 at about 8 P. M., a Negro with a "northern brogue" came into the store owned by her husband at the near-by community of Money, in neighboring LeFlore County.

She said the Negro made a purchase and when she held out her hand for the money he grabbed her hand and she had to tug to get free. She said he followed her to the cash register, grabbed her around the waist and said "how about a date, I've been with white women before."

Mrs. Bryant said that another Negro came into the store and took Emmett by the arm and dragged him outside. She said she went outside to get a pistol from an automobile and that Emmett was on the porch and that he "wolf-whistled" at her.

The defense called as witnesses Dr. L. D. Odken, Greenwood; H. D. Malone, an embalmer of Cleveland, and Sheriff H. C. Strider of Tallahatchie County. All testified that they viewed the body recovered from the river three days after the boy was kidnapped and that in their opinion the body appeared to be decomposed to the extent that it would have been in the water from ten to fifteen days.

The trial was adjourned until 9:30 A. M. tomorrow. Indications were that it might go to the jury late in the day.

DELAY IS GRANTED IN SLAYING TRIAL

Times P.24

Mississippi Prosecutor Tells of New 'Major' Witnesses —Jury Is Completed

New York City

By JOHN N. POPHAM

Special to The New York Times.

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 20—The trial of two Mississippi white men accused of murdering a 14-year-old Chicago Negro was recessed abruptly today to allow prosecuting attorneys to examine new witnesses of "major importance."

This surprising development was disclosed dramatically in a crowded courtroom a few minutes before the jury was scheduled to hear the state's first witness against Roy Bryant, 24 years old, and his half brother, J. W. Milam, 36.

Over vigorous defense objections, Circuit Judge Curtis M. Swango ruled that the prosecution's request for a recess was "reasonable." He directed that the trial be resumed at 9 A. M. tomorrow.

Dec 4 21-3

Judge Swango then granted the request of defense counsel that there be "no secret subpoenas" in connection with the examination of the new State witnesses. The court stipulated that the prosecution must furnish defense lawyers with the names of all new witnesses for whom subpoenas would be issued.

There were widely circulated rumors in this seat of Tallahatchie County that the new witnesses might have testimony bearing on the controversial subject of where the killing took place.

The victim, Emmett Louis Till, who reportedly "wolf whistled" at Bryant's H21-year-old wife in a country store in Money, Miss., was forcibly seized from his uncle's home in LeFlore County on Aug. 28. Four days later the boy's body was found in the Tallahatchie River. He had been bludgeoned and shot in the head.

Rumors About Witnesses

Local officials have said that there was no definite scene fixed for the actual killing and Tallahatchie County eventually claimed jurisdiction of the crime because the body had been taken from the river in that county.

There were rumors also that the new witnesses were Negro field hands from adjacent Sunflower County, who possibly could give evidence concerning the killing itself. There have been frequent reports that "others" had participated in seizing the boy and have since been missing from their homes.

Evidence that pinpointed the scene of the crime would perhaps confront the court and prosecuting officials with a legal problem involving a change of venue. It is possibly could call for transfer of the trial from Tallahatchie to some other county.

attorney for the Circuit Court district and one of three attorneys handling the state's case, made the formal request to the court for a day's recess.

"We have been advised of witnesses who have not heretofore appeared before the grand jury that returned the indictment in this case," Mr. Chatham said.

"We believe these witnesses are of major importance," he said, "and we request a recess in which to allow the prosecution to subpoena these additional witnesses and to examine them before continuing with this trial."

J. J. Breland, one of five attorneys representing the defendants, objected to any delay. He declared that there were enough witnesses already available to the state to begin the taking of testimony before the jury.

Mr. Chatham and the attorneys associated with him in the prosecution, Robert B. Smith, 3d, special counsel, and Hamilton Haldwell, Tallhatchie County attorney, held a private conference with several previously identified state witnesses immediately after the recess.

Mr. Smith said that he could not disclose the place at which the new witnesses would be examined.

The trial session opened its second day at 9:30 A. M., with ten jurors who had been selected at yesterday's session. In forty-five mintues, two more jurors were chosen from seven veniremen examined by the attorneys for both sides. A few minutes later an alternate juror was named.

Nine Farmers on Jury

Mr. Chatham at one point in examining the veniremen asked, "could you jurors return a verdict that would call for death in the gas chamber?"

Under Mississippi statutes, a murder conviction puts upon the jury the burden of recommending either a death or life imprisonment. Thus, the question

ng of the jurors on this point is largely a technicality.

The completed jury includes ninefarmers, a retired carpenter, an insurance man and a dragline operator. The alternate juror is carpenter. Their ages ranged from 28 to 74.

At 11 A. M., the prosecution attorneys requested that court be recessed for one hour ot allow them time to decide on the order in which to call the state's witnesses. Judge Swango granted the request and extended the time until 1:30 P. M. to include lunch.

It was when Judge Swango called the court to order in the early afternoon for the introduction of the prosecution's first witness, that Mr. Chatham startled the proceedings with the statement about new witnesses.

In the morning session the highlights were the appearance separately of Mrs. Mamie Bradley of Chicago, mother of the slain youth, and United States Representative Charles Digges, Democrat of Detroit.

Mrs. Bradley was accompanied by her father, John N. Carthan of Detroit, and Rayfield Mooty of Chicago, a cousin. They were joined in Memphis, Tenn., where they arrived this morning by plane, by Taylor C. Hayes, Memphis funeral director. Mr. Hayes drove them to Sumner in his automobile.

Representative Digges said he was attending the trial as an "interested observer." He was accompanied by Basil Brown, a Detroit lawyer, and James del Río, a Detroit mortgage banker.

Mrs. Bradley and Representative Digges took seats at a table set aside for representatives of the Negro press.



Associated Press Wirephoto

SLAIN YOUTH'S RELATIVES: Mrs. Mamie Bradley talks with her uncle, Mose Wright, in courtroom at Sumner, Miss., where two white men are on trial for the murder of her son, Emmett Louis Till, 14. Boy is Simeon Wright, whom Emmett had been visiting.

truth about why you left Mississippi and to find if you are afraid to go back."

"You don't have to answer me. I am here to find who you are afraid of, if you are afraid of anybody."

Still no answer.

Spell: "I just want to know if anyone did you any harm before you left."

Reed: "No, sir."

"Did anyone threaten you or say they would hurt you?"

"No sir, but I was afraid they might."

"Who were you afraid of?"

"Mr. Bryant and Mr. Milam."

Spell said that Reed answered his question freely and said that he left Mississippi of his own free will because he "looked at Milam and Bryant and was afraid to stay.

Meanwhile, the NAACP here denied that either Reed, Mrs. Amanda Bradley, or Moses Wright were brought here against their will. This denial was backed up by the other persons involved in the case.

Mrs. Amanda Bradley said: "That's most fantastic thing I ever heard. Nobody is keeping me here. I wanted to come, and I did, paying my own way."

In Detroit, 64-year-old Moses Wright said: "Well, I guess I have now heard everything. I not only came to Chicago of my own free will, but I brought my wife, and my three children."

Wright, who identified Milam and Bryant in the murder trial, said he will return to Mississippi for the kid nap trial, adding that "they can't do anything but kill me."

Reed's mother, when told of the "captive charges," said, "The more I hear about what's supposed to be happening to us, the more fantastic it gets."

Cites Fear Of Entering Chicago's South Side

World
Fri 10-14-55

CHICAGO —(ANP)— The Jackson (Miss.) Daily News this week published an article by Reporter Bill Spell, who claimed that two Negro witness in the Till trial are "held captive in Chicago."

Spell's "inside story" was published under a seven-column head in Wednesday's edition of the News which plugged the story with a subhead declaring that a "newspaperman dared to penetrate Chicago's South Side."

The Chicago American on Friday revealed that Spell posed as a police officer and was given official clearance to interview Willie Reed who is under medical treatment in a Chicago hospital. The American gave the following account of Spell's visit:

"Spell, flown here in a National Guard plane, was accompanied by a man who identified himself to police as W. J. Chrisler, an aid to Gov. Hugh White of Mississippi. With official clearance from Police Commissioner O'Connor's office, two local policemen drove them to the Prairie Ave. Station."

The men told Capt. Thomas Kelly that they were given permission by the commissioner's office to interview Reed, who is in Kelly's district at Michael Reese hospital.

"I was led to believe that Spell was a Mississippi policeman and Chrisler was a representative of Gov. White. I assigned Lt. Edward Wolfe to take them to the hospital which he did." Kelly said.

Spell wrote that the "witnesses are now being held captive in the deepest part of Chicago's South Side Negro section by the NAACP." He said that when the NAACP "found out I was there, I was no longer permitted to talk."

According to Spell, Reed was frightened and only mumbled in answer to his initial questions. Following is a portion of Spell's account of the interview:

Spell: "I came here to get the

Wives Serious, Children Play At Trial Of Bryant, Milam

By JAMES HUNTER
Staff Writer

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 19—The four handsome sons of Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam squirmed, squealed, climbed, ran, cried, laughed, chewed gum, ate candy, drank liquids and played cowboy in the courtroom Monday as their fathers went on trial for murder.

The defendants made a dramatic entrance with their attractive wives and children at 10:25 a.m., setting off a buzz of interest and lightning like flashes from the combined action of 30 cameramen.

Mrs. Carolyn Bryant, 21-year-old brunet who is expected to be a key witness, was dressed in a simple, dark-gray dress with high neckline. She leaned close to her 24-year-old husband and fidgeted her fingers, never speaking.

Expression Stern

Mrs. Juanita Milam, 27-year-old wife of the other defendant, wore gray in a lighter shade with white trim at the neck and sleeves. Her long hair was bound in a bun at the back of her neck. Her facial expression remained stern throughout the proceedings.

The boys were scrubbed and neatly dressed in their Sunday best, including suspenders and neckties, at the beginning of the tiresome session. They sat quietly on their parents' laps for a few minutes.

Bryant held his two sons, Lamar Bryant, 2, and Roy Byrant Jr., 3, and Milam clutched his boys, Harvey Milam, 2, and Bill Milam, 4, for a while.

When the children grew restless, their mothers held them. But finally, the boys broke away and explored the courtroom.

Families Together

The families sat together in front of Judge Curtis M. Swango near their five attorneys. Relatives in the first row of the spectators area passed them drinking water from time to time and ran errands in efforts to keep the boys happy.

Once, Bill Milam picked up a toy pistol and fired an imaginary shot at Roy Bryant Jr.

Bill, the oldest child present, clambered over the rail and stamped down the aisle making little boy noises. He ran his hand along the courtroom railing pickets, apparently deriving great satisfaction from the machine-gun clack-clack he produced.

The 2-year-olds whimpered and wriggled. Bryant spoke sharply to them and cautioned them to be still.

A spectator passed the boys chewing gum. Mrs. Bryant rocked from side to side in attempts to calm her youngest. Bill Milan by then had climbed to the top of the rail where he stood precariously and shouted a greeting to his cousins.

Candy Supplied

The mothers and their husbands smoked many cigarets.

A relative brought the boys a bag of candy suckers. This appeased the hoodlums.

Lamar Bryant finished his candy and played peek-a-boo with onlookers through the rail pickets.

By afternoon the boys had shed their shirts.

J. J. Breland, senior defense attorney who has practiced law in Sumner 40 years, has experienced more than one sensational trial.

He engineered the defense more than 15 years ago when Dr. Sarah Ruth Dean went on trial in Greenwood, Miss., for the widely-publicized poison-murder of Dr. Preston Kennedy.

Dr. Dean was convicted but was pardoned by Gov. Mike Connor before she went to prison. She is still practicing medicine in the state.

Four Aid Defense

Every other Sumner attorney is serving with Mr. Breland in the defense of Milam and Bryant. They are C. Sidney Carlton, J. W. Kellum, John Whitten and Harvey Henderson.

On the opposite side of the table sit the prosecuting lawyers, led by Gerald Chatham of Hernando, district attorney for 14 years. Mr. Chatham, who has high blood pressure, said most of the work in the case will be handled by Robert Smith, suave 41-year-old ex-Marine and former FBI agent. The third prosecutor is Hamilton Caldwell, Tallahatchie County attorney.

During the noon recess, a rumor spread through the crowd in the courthouse lobby that Bryant, an Army paratrooper after the Korean War, had served under a Negro corporal in his outfit. Bryant later said this was false. He said he was a sergeant and had a Negro corporal under him.

Milam said he has been a good friend of the Negroes he has known. He said five years ago he plunged into the Tallahatchie River, from which the body of Emmett Till was pulled, and saved the life of a drowning 7-year-old Negro girl.

Milam said he also lent his car to Gilbert Henderson of Glendora, a Negro, to take his child, stricken with polio, to a doctor. Four years ago, Milam rushed Jack Mammon of Glendora, a Negro, to a hospital when Mammon's jugular vein was slashed, he said.

The townspeople of Sumner have never seen anything like it here — the crowds, the out-of-state newsmen and the excitement of a big trial — not even on Saturdays or when merchants conduct a drawing to give away an automobile.

Citizens estimated as many as 1,000 outsiders came, more than come on the biggest trade days.

Bernard Henderson, a banker, said he had never seen such doings here in 32 years.

Business Brisk

Businessmen did a rush trade and no one seemed to feel there was danger of an outbreak of violence as a result of a murder trial with racial overtones.

Crowds unable to get inside the small upstairs courtroom stood under large oaks outside the 45-year-old brown brick courthouse or loafed in the halls.

Inside the courtroom, spectators lined the green plastered walls or sat in tall windows equipped with dilapidated pull shades, in addition to filling the 108 available seats.

Not more than 15 women, white and Negro, entered the courtroom. All the rest were men. Negroes sat segregated in a rear corner.

Combined body and sun heat in the high-ceilinged room brought on much hat fanning. Judge Swango said it was permissible to remove coats and smoke.

A porter was kept busy passing a pitcher of ice water to trial officials. Downstairs, a cold drink stand had its biggest day in history.

JURY PANEL CHOSEN TO HEAR TILL CASE

168 Prospective Jurors For Opening On Monday

MOTHER TO TESTIFY

Special to The Commercial Appeal

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 12.—A list of 120 prospective jurors was completed late Monday for a trial in which two white men are accused of slaying a 14-year-old Negro boy.

Twelve jurors will be chosen from the list Sept. 19 as the trial of Roy Bryant, 24-year-old Money, Miss., storekeeper, and his half-brother, J. W. Milam of Glendora, Miss., gets under way. They have been indicted by a Tallahatchie County Grand Jury in the death of Eemmett L. Till of Chicago.

A regular 48-man panel was also summoned to appear and the jury will be completed from that group in case the special venire is exhusted.

Panel Only For Case

The special jury panel was drawn only for the Till case. It came from the county at large.

Bryant and Milam were arrested in adjoining Leflore County after Till was taken from his uncle's home Aug. 25. His body was found in the Tallahatchie River three days later. He had been beaten and shot.

Leflore County officers said the men told them they released the youth unharmed after they discovered he was not the Negro who "wolf whistled" and made "some remarks" to Roy Bryant's wife.

Sidney Carlton, Sumner attorney and member of the defense counsel, said Monday he didn't think the trial would last more than two days.

Meanwhile, A. B. Ainsworth of Greenwood, Miss., reported that a defense fund for Milam and Bryant was drawing contributions from many parts of the Delta.

Money for Family

Mr. Ainsworth, who began solicitations in his home city, said the money was being turned over to the family as it came in and some of the funds are being mailed direct to the family.

He said he had turned over some of the funds to C. F. Campbell of Sunnyside, brother-in-law of Bryant.

Mr. Campbell said he had no way of knowing how much has been collected since money is also coming to other members of the Bryant and Milam families.

Mr. Ainsworth said the funds collected will be used to pay legal and investigative fees for the defendants. He said previous plans to deposit the money in a bank had been abandoned since it is being given direct to the families.

CHICAGO, Sept. 12.—Mamie Mamie Bradley will appear as a state's witness Sept. 19 at Sumner, Miss., in the trial of two white men acoused of slaying her Negro son, her lawyer said Monday.

The attorney, William Henry Huff, who also is chairman of the legal redress committee of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said he is "reasonably satisfied that no harm will befall" her.

"The (Mississippi) law enforcement officess all the way up to the top level have given assurance that she, as a state's witness, will be protected," Huff said.

He said the mother "assures me that she has no ill will against the citizens of the state of Mississippi," that she knows, as we all know, that the majority of people in that state are bitterly opposed to brutalities perpetrated upon her son.

Huff said she will be accompanied by her pastor, Bishop Louis Ford of the St. Paul Church of God in Christ.

A telegram was sent from Chicago at 2:02 p.m., stating her willingness to testify. Dist. Atty. Gerald Chatham expressed surprise at the message. He thought she was in Clarksdale, ready to testify.

The district attorney wired back requesting that she leave immediately for Sumner.

Her telegram to Mr. Chatham read:

"Sir, I am willing to attend the trial of Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam to be held in Sumner, Miss., beginning Sept. 19 for the kidnap lynching of my son, Emmett Louis Till. Would like to know what protection your office will provide for my protection and safety. Will stay departure pending your instruction."

The telegram, delivered to the district attorney in the courtroom about 4 p.m., was signed by Mamie E. Bradley.

The telegram was the first word that Mr. Chatham had received from her since he asked her to appear.

Mother Of Till Still In Chicago As Trial Begins

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 19.—Mamie Bradley of Chicago, mother of Emmett L. Till, who was expected to appear as a state witness, was still in Chicago Mnoday afternoon.

10 JURORS SELECTED FOR TRIAL OF 2 MEN IN SLAYING OF NEGRO

64-Year-Old Uncle Of Till To Be Called By State As First Witness

COURTROOM IS CROWDED

Racial Prejudice, Aid To Fund For Bryant And Milam Cause Judge To Excuse Many From Panel

By WILLIAM SORRELS
Staff Writer

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 19.—The State plans to call Mose Wright, 64-year-old uncle of Emmett L. Till, to the witness stand here Tuesday as soon as the jury is seated in the kidnap-slaying case.

Selection of only two additional jurors bars the start of testimony in the murder trial of two white men, charged with the

death of Till, a 14-year-old Chicago Negro.

Judge Curtis M. Swango adjourned Circuit Court at 5 p.m., Monday after 10 white men were accepted for jury service in the widely-publicized case.

Resumes At 9 A.M.

Court resumes at 9 a.m. Tuesday.

It took five and a half hot hours in the crowded little courtroom to qualify seven Tallahatchie County farmers, a retired carpenter, an insurance man and a carpenter.

Indecision by some prospective jurors on racial prejudice queries, fixed opinions and contributions to a defense fund for the accused, Roy Bryant, 24, of Money, Miss., and his half brother, J. W. Milam, 36, of Glendora, Miss., led the judge to excuse many.

Forty-two men, including the 10 chosen, were called from a special venire of 120.

After using 11 of its 12 challenges, the prosecution, headed by Dist. Atty. Gerald Chatham, tendered a full panel to the defense for possible acceptance.

The defense challenged only two men.

Jurors Accepted

Acceptable to both sides were:

Ed Devaney of Charleston, retired carpenter.

L. L. Price of Charleston, insurance man.

Howard Armstrong of Enid, farmer.

J. A. Shaw Jr. of Webb, farmer.

Ray Tribble of Payne, farmer.

Davis Newton of Enid, farmer.

Bishop Matthews of Charleston, carpenter.

James Toole of Enid, farmer.

George Holland of Glendora, farmer.

Travis Thomas of Murfreesboro, farmer.

Most of the 10 jurors, mostly middle-aged, live a considerable distance from the Money-Glendora area of the winding Tallahatchie River, where Till's body was found Aug. 31. Mr. Holland is the exception. In the state's qualifying questioning it was evident that it sought jurors from distant sections of the county. Enid, where three of the jurors live, is in the extreme northeast part of Tallahatchie County.

Objection Voiced

Questions by the state about possible contributions to the Bryant-Milam defense fund brought J. J. Breland, senior defense counsel, to his feet.

"Object," said the attorney, when Mr. Chatham asked Jesse Lay whether he would have contributed if he had been asked.

"I don't know whether I would or not," Mr. Lay replied.

Judge Swango excused him.

The race and defense fund questions kept the flow of possible jurors brisk during the afternoon. One man, when asked by the judge if he had any reservations on the race point, said, "I might not have."

He was told to stand aside.

Men in the panel who knew the accused—one called Bryant by his first name, J. W.—with any degree of familiarity were challenged by the state.

In planning to call Mose Wright as the first state witness Tuesday, the State will set out to prove "beyond a reasonable doubt and to a moral certainty" that Bryant and Milam killed Till and threw his weighted body into the Tallahatchie, the prosecution said.

Claim Innocence

Bryant, a 24-year-old former paratrooper sergeant, and Milam, a 36-year-old former Army lieutenant, maintained they are innocent.

Till was taken from the Wright home Aug. 28 by two white men, three days after he reportedly "wolf whistled" and made "ugly remarks" to Mrs. Bryant in the Bryant store at Money.

A body identified as Till's was found Aug. 31.

Sheriff George Smith of Leflore County said Bryant told him the boy was taken from the home, but was set free after it was discovered he was not the one who insulted his wife.

Mr. Breland, who questioned the panel for the defense, told prospective jurors, "The fact they have been indicted is no presumption of guilt."

At one point he said, "You must believe the body taken from the Tallahatchie River is that of Emmett Till beyond a reasonable doubt and moral certainty."

Bailiffs With Jury

The 10 jurors selected were quartered for the night at the Delta Inn here. There were four bailiffs with them. The accused men were returned to cells in the Charleston jail.

Two petit juries to handle other cases docketed in the court had been sworn in by 10:15 a.m. when the special, 120-man venire was called.

Just before the qualification of the trial jury began, the defendants, each carrying their two sons in their arms, came back into the courtroom accompanied by their attractive wives.

Judge Swango, ranked as one of the state's most able jurists, reached into his straw hat at 10:30 a.m., handed the slips to Sheriff H. C. Strider and the calling of prospective jurors began.

Dist. Atty. Gerald Chatham and Robert B. Smith III, special prosecution assistant named by Atty. Gen. J. P. Coleman, began their qualification questions.

Many of the big panel had been excused from duty earlier by the judge because of age, inability to hear and other reasons. When 12 men were seated in swivel back chairs, the state started its interrogation.

Tells of Contribution

One mn, H. N. Brower of sPhilipp, was excused by Judge Swango when he said he had given $1 to a man taking up funds to aid the defense.

Philipp, in the center of the did-nap-slaying area of the Tallahatchie River's 40-mile bend, also known as the "River of the Line," is just below where the body was found.

Judge Swango asked two other men, Buell Babus and E. D. Mabus, to "stand aside" when it was brought out that relatives had contributed to the accused men's defense. The Mabus' are brothers.

The first man dismissed by the judge was Robert Smith of Tutwiler, who said he had a "fixed opinion."

Calls for Boycott On Mississippi

Rep. Adam Clayton Powell, D., N. Y., demanded yesterday a national boycott on "everything that is made in Mississippi" or comes from that state.

Rep Powell made the plea in an address to an estimated 20,000 persons who attended a mass meeting in the garment center to protest the murder of Emmett Till, fifteen-year-old Chicago Negro boy, in Mississippi. He addressed the crowd from a platform at 36th St., between Seventh and Eighth Aves.

The Congressman said he will introduced into the next session of Congress a resolution to bar from being seated representatives from any state which refused to permit Negro citizens "to freely exercise their franchise without fear of lynching or coercion of any kind."

In the Till case, two white men were acquitted of the murder by an all-white jury and the F. B. I. is seeking two witnesses who have since disappeared.



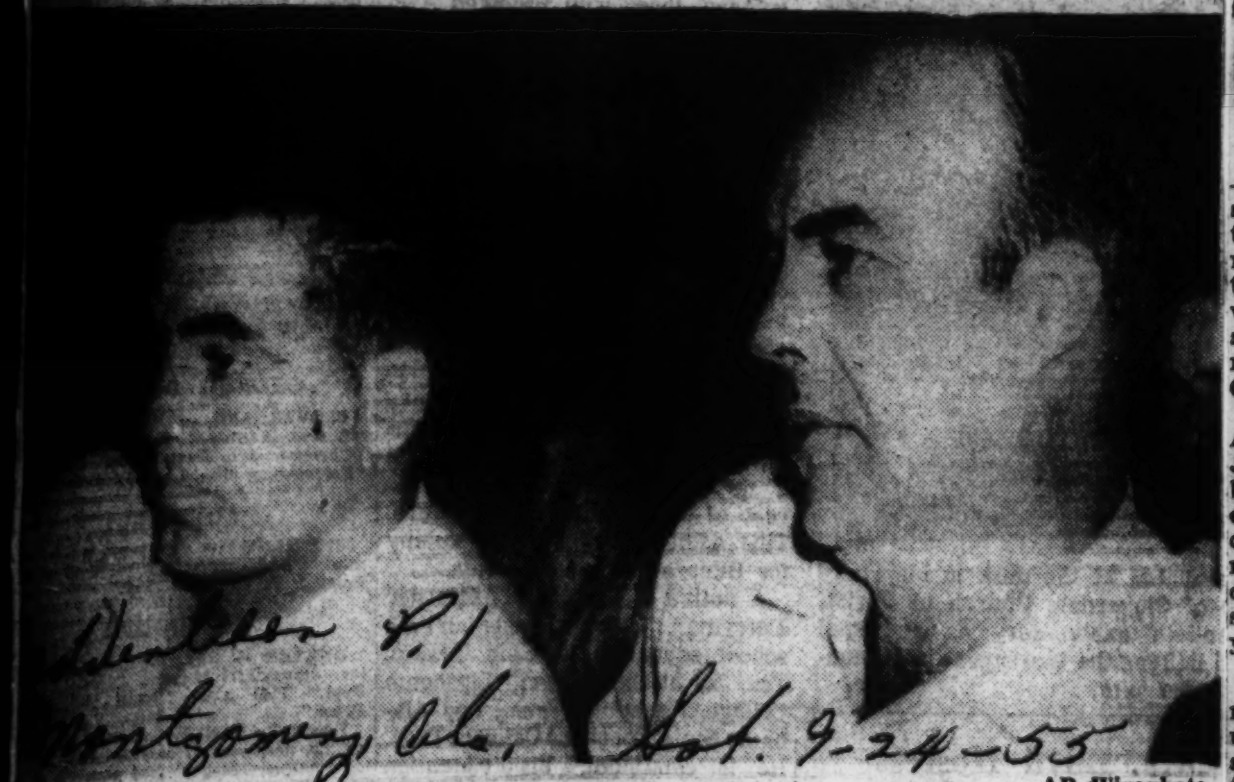
Herald Tribune photo by Morris Warman

Crowd on 36th St., between Seventh and Eighth Aves., at mass meeting yesterday protesting the murder of Emmett Till in Mississippi.

27a 1955 MISSISSIPPI

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Mississippians Freed In Negro Boy's Death



AP Wirephoto

HARD-FACED Roy Bryant (left) and J. W. Milam, half-brothers, sit in court at Sumner, Miss., yesterday awaiting the verdict of a jury which acquitted them of charges of murdering Emmett Till, 14-year-old Chicago Negro who allegedly made advances at Bryant's wife.

American Prestige Damaged By Handling Of Till Case

Daily World
Tues. 10-25-55
Atlanta, Ga.,
P. 1

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(NNPA)—American prestige abroad was so seriously damaged by the Till case that Federal legislation is urgently needed to strength the powers of the Justice Department to deal with civil rights violations, congressional leaders were told Friday in a report by the American Jewish Committee.

Made public by Irving M. Engel, AJC president, and former Federal Judge Simon H. Rifkind, executive board chairman, the report featured a survey of public reaction in six countries of Europe and North America to the acquittal of two men accused of the brutal murder in Mississippi of Emmett Louis Till, a 14-year old Chicago boy.

European condemnation, the AJC reported, was "swift, violent and universal" and came from liberal and conservative elements rather than from the Communists of Communist-front groups.

Prepared for the AJC's national executive board, which held a two-day session Saturday and Sunday in New York City, copies of the report were sent to the Senate Judiciary Committee, of which Senator Harley M. Kilgore, of West Virginia, is chairman and the House Judiciary Committee, of which Representative Emanuel Celler, of New York, is chairman.

The three chief recommendations of the AJC report urge:

1. Strengthening of existing Federal law to make attacks against an individual because of his race, color or religion a violation of Federal civil rights statutes.

2. Raising the civil rights section of the Justice Department to o division with an Assistant Attorney General in charge with powers to investigate and prosecute all civil rights offenses.

3. Increasing FBI personnel to the extent necessary to investigate all complaints of violation of civil rights under Federal law and giving them the necessary training and instruction to handle civil rights cases.

Citing the extensive survey of press and opinion leaders conducted by AJC correspondents in France, Belgium, Italy, Switzerland, Germany and Tunisia, the AJC told Congressional leaders:

"Only speedy implementation of these three civil rights recommendations can deal effectively with any recurrence of a Till case, which did such enormous damage to American prestige abroad.

"In some European quarters, the Till case temporarily offset the favorable impact created by the U. S. Supreme Court's desegregation decision and by previous reports of steady U. S. progress in civil rights during the past decade."

ACJ correspondents reported that Europe's condemnation of the Till case "came from all sections of public opinion and from all political directions.

"These protestations were expressed in hundreds of newspaper editorials, statements by public leaders in every country of Western Europe, and by men in the street. Political leaders, writers, intellectuals and artists, particularly in France, vehemently denounced the Till case,' the AJC survey reported.

AJC correspondents said the news of the Mississippi trial was reported prominently and at great length in all daily newspapers of the countries surveyed. They added that the detailed reports were accompanied by dramatic photos of the court's sessions and the trial's principals.

"The comments varied in tone and intensity,' the report said, noting that headlines contained such words as 'scandalous,' 'monstrous' and abominable.'

"Some limited their condemnation to the section of the South where the trial took place. Others blamed the entire South for its segregation politicies and the atmosphere of racial hatred which could produce such a trial.

"Many others, on the basis of the trial and the verdict, raised sharp doubts about the sincerity of the United States in proclaiming itself as a defender of human rights and of oppressed people throughout the world."

Daily World

The report indicated that the principal damage to the United States was done when "many European commentators used the Till trial as an occasion to point out to the United States that it is in no position to teach other nations how to conduct their colonial affairs and their relations with people under their jurisdiction."

Informer Reporter, In Miss. For Lynch Trial, Arrested

Informer
Sat. 10-1-55

SUMNER, Miss — Jimmy Hicks, special correspondent for the Informer and NNPA, who covered the trial of the two white men charged in the brutal lynching of 14-year-old Emmett Till, was arrested here last week. Though the charge supposedl was a traffic violation, many here feel that Mr Hicks' work in helping to uncover witnesses may have been the real cause.

Following in the text of a telephone conversation between Mr Hicks and Art Carter, an NNAP official:

Houston
Sept

Mr Carter: Jimmy, Art Carter.

Mr Hicks: Yeah, man.

Carter: Tell me what happened, about some arrest or something?

Hicks: Well, I was arrested yesterday. I'll tell you what happened: I drove to the trial early in the morning and I sat in through the trial all day, that is, until the noon recess. I had a notebook in my car and I went to get it, and when the noon recess came, I went out to my car, and as I walked to my car and inserted the key into the lock, a man was standing by the car and he said, "Do you own this car?" (He was a white man), and I said, "Yes, this is my car." And he snatched the key from my hand and said, "Come with me to the city hall." I said nothing and I began walking with him. On my way down, he was walking on the inside of this sidewalk and I could see from my right, in looking in the store windows, that he had a gun. That was the first time I realized that he was some kind of law officer. Of course I kept walking with him and he took me to the offices of the Sumner Tabloid, which is a local paper here. And it happened that there were three newspapermen in there whom I knew, and they immediately began to say, "Hello, Hicks", and greeted me, and they said, "How are things going?" And I said, "Things aren't going so very good right now because it appears that this gentleman has some differences with me or something." So he said, "What is wrong?" One of these men was Featherstone of the Jackson Times in Jackson, Mississippi, who had worked all night before with me in rallying up some colored people on that trial. So he said, "What is wrong? I'm from Jackson, Mississippi, and this fellow here is all right." And this man said, "I had orders from the sheriff's office to pick him up." Then about that time the editor of the Sumner Sentinel, whom I also know, stepped up, and he said, "Why this is....we understand that all the boys like hm, he's okay, tell us what the charge is." So he said "I can't tell you." So he said, "Well, what's wrong?" He said, "Well, the sheriff told me to pick him up". So then he said, "Well, get the sheriff over here." So the sheriff was in recess over in the court room and somebody went out to get him; in the meanwhile, word got around to the boys on the colored press that I was over there, so a delegation of them came in, and then word got around to the other press and pretty soon there were about 20 nawspapermen in there. So then the fellow looked around and said, "Well, I'll tell you what it is, he has a traffic violation against him." And then I said, "What is it? He said, "A school bus driver had reported on that morning that as I drove into the city, I had passed the school bus which was parked unloading children and that was a violation of the law, and he had reported it." Then up came the justice of the peace who is the linotype operator in the office of the newspaper office. In other words the justice of the peace in Sumner is the linotype operator on the newspaper. So he said... then the editor of the newspaper said, "Look let's get this charge thrown out of here, this fellow is all right, we don't want to get any black eye to the city." So he said that "This is my case, and you fellows get out of here and let me try it." Well by that tme, I was so relieved to find that it was a traffic violation and that alone, and I suggested to some of the colored reporters that they, too, ease out and just let the man go ahead and fine me for whatever it was and let's call it a deal on that. Well, he told me, he said, "Now, boy, come on back here, I want to talk to you." We went back to the back of the office which was his office and he took out his law book and read the law to me and said, "I want to impress upon you the importance of this and he showed me that this is the law which says that there would be a fine of $10 to $60 and 60 days to 6 months in jail — no, it was $10 to $200. So of course I was so relieved, I told him that I realized that it was the law and that I had violated it, I hadn't been aware of it, I hadn't seen the bus, but certainly I felt that the law would take its course. Well, I went on to tell him that the situation was entirely something I didn't know about, but I realized that he had to do his job. I was very definite in making it clear that I had no intentions of avoiding the law. So he said, "Now, I don't care what you put in your paper, but I'm going to let you go, and he said I want you to know that I was fair and I've been fair to you", and he said, "Don't you think so?" And I told him he had been very fair, particularly since he was going to let me go, and I said, "That was very, very fair." So, he let me go.

Now what I strongly suspected was that my activity in helping to shake loose some of these people who have testified here today was catching up with me, and that had been worrying me all during this thing down here. And one reason why I haven't been able to get all out of the story this week as I had wanted to because when you get all kinds of reports, anything from the wires are tapped to Western Union and what-not. Of course some of these fellows who had been here already called their papers and alerted them and the editor of the paper was very anxious that there would be nothing in it — it wouldn't be no story. Of course, so far I was concerned, after I got out of it, I wasn't interested in making an incident of it either.

Carter: Are you all right?

Hicks: I'm okay.

Carter: What is the name of the justice of the peace, do you know?

Hicks: No, I don't. I didn't ask him.

Carter: Well, that's all right, it isn't important. Everything is all right now?

Hicks: Everything else is all right. I just filed you one story.

Carter: Has the state rested its case?

Hicks: The state has rested its case and I have the testimony here that is very, very good if I can write it because this Mrs Bryant has just taken the stand and instead of a "wolf-call", she is making some very, very strong charges. I wrote them down. She testified: On Wednesday, August 24th, she went into her store at Money, that's the name of the town; when a Negro man came in and she asked him what he wanted and she got it for him; she didn't say what it was that he wanted, but she got it for him; she put her hand on the top of the counter for the money, but instead of taking the money, she says, he grabbed her hand and he said to her, "How about a date, baby?" She said at that time he turned and backed away from the counter, and he came around and caught her at the cash register, and he caught her, he put both of his arms around her hips, and he said to her, "What's the matter, baby, can't you take it?" She said, she tried to free herself and he said to her, "You needn't be afraid of me." And she was asked then if he used language which she doesn't use, and she said, "Yes, he did." They asked her to say what he said to her. Well, she didn't say anything, but she said he said, 'I've been with white women before." At one point they asked her to use the first letter of the words he used, and she acted as if she couldn't do anything like that. She said at that point another colored fellow caught this boy by his arm and ran him out. The defense brought out that there were a group of colored men outside her store at that time, that there were no white men and pointed out that there was no need at all of making an outcry. And she said, after they pulled this boy out of the store, he made another obscene remark. And she went to her car and got her pistol, and then at that point I heard that you were on the phone and I've got somebody covering for me and I'll go back up there.

Carter: Okay, Jimmy.

Hicks: They didn't put but two witnesses on and it looks as if the case will go to the jury Saturday as they expect. So far as taking the trial to another county, I think that's out. I just talked with the prosecutor in that story I filed a few minutes ago; he points out that they think they made a good case and they're going to let it go at that. I don't think so, but....

Carter: Take your time, I can understand the situation; I'm glad everything came out all right.

Hicks: I just sent a wire to Mr Murphy telling him to send me some money at Clarksdale. I'll pick it up in Clarksdale.

Carter: Western Union? Okay.

Terror Stricken

Informer

2 Lynch Trial Witnesses Leave Miss. For The North

Sat. 10-1-55

Houston, Texas

By A STAFF WRITER

SUMNER, Miss — At least two terror stricken Negro witnesses in the trial of the two white men charged with lynching 14-year-old Emmett Till have left the state for the north.

P.I.

Nineteen-year-old Willie Reed and Mrs Mandy Bradley, both of whom testified against the accused lynchers, left Mississippi for Michigan immediately.

The Negroes in the community generally are fearful of reprisals and the two witness have said they are leaving because they are afraid. Many others are talking about leaving.

Reed's testimony was the most sensational of the trial. He testified that he was near a barn on a plantation managed by J. W. Milam when he heard human screams coming from the barn. Later, he declared, Milam emerged from the barn with a pistol strapped to his side.

Informer

Both Milam and his half brother, Roy Bryant, were acquitted of the lynching Friday.

P. 1

A third witness, the aging Rev Mose Wright, who fingered the accused men as kidnappers of young Emmet Till, is braver. He declares he will leave 'as soon as the crop is harvested.''

Congressman Charles Diggs (D-Mich), who witnessed the sensational trial, said he would help the youth and Mrs Bardley to re-locate themselves in Michigan. He added that he would help them get jobs there.

People all over the country are saying that the Negroes who testified 'took their lives in their hands'' in pointing out the white men as the parties responsible for Till's death.

It is also being pointed out that the acquitting of the two men gives the go ahead signal to lynchers all over the south.

The sad tragedy of the Till case, however, could have some good effect, strange as it seems. It points up the need for a federal anti-lynch law. It is hard to see how any decent human being could vote against such a law now that an innocent child has been the victim.

It is expected that Congressman Diggs and other Negro representatives on Congressional Hill will press more than ever for an anti-lynch law and that demands for enactment of the law will come from all over the country.

Mrs Mamie Bradley, young Till's mother, stated that she was not surprised at the verdict. She said the reason she was not in court when the verdict was read was because she knew the men would be freed and she didn't want to be there to hear it.

Since white people in Mississippi and in most of the south are seldom convicted of committing crimes on Negroes, though they do so time and time again, few are surprised at the "not guilty" verdict.

'SESSION' URGED IN TILL PROTEST

Times Picayune

Negro Solon Hits Verdict at Sumner Trial

New Orleans, La.

Wed. 10-12-55

NEW YORK, Oct. 11 (AP)—Rep. Adam Clayton Powell (D-NY) said Tuesday a special session of Congress should be called to deal immediately with the Emmett Till case.

P. 12

Speaking to a luncheon crowd rally of 20,000, Powell said President Eisenhower's illness "cannot be used as an excuse for not calling a special session of Congress."

The Negro congressman said he would introduce a resolution at the next session of Congress to bar the seating of representatives from states which refuse to permit Negroes "to freely exercise their franchise without fear of lynching or coercion of any kind."

Powell proposed that in retaliation for the Till slaying people all over the nation boycott everything made in Mississippi.

He said unless the legal forces of the United States do something to rectify the wrong in Mississippi then "America's leadership is not only going to be seriously damaged, but it is going to continue to slide downhill."

He said new FBI agents from northern cities should be sent in to investigate the case because the ones assigned to the case were "from the Deep South, if not from Mississippi itself."

He said witnesses of such crimes who are afraid to testify should be moved out secretly, somewhat in the manner of the underground railroad used to smuggle slaves to freedom in Civil War days.

The Rt. Rev. Cornelius J. Drew of the St. Charles Roman Catholic Church spoke and urged those attending to help in the struggle to "get rid of prejudices and bigotry so that we might have a united United States."

Rabbi Israel Goldstein, president of the American Jewish Congress, termed the Till case "only one of a series of tragic events which shows it is impossible for Negroes to get fair trials in Mississippi."

He said the state of Mississippi made it clear at the beginning of the trial that it did not intend to let the jury system operate fairly where Negroes were involved.

The Rev. Donald Harrington of Community Church called the Till case "the culmination of terror and slavery prevailing in Mississippi."

He said the people of Mississippi should be "made to feel a sense of shame and the moral outrage of the American people over the Emmett Till murder."

All speakers urged support for the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People in seeking "justice and truth" in the Till case.

Others sponsoring the rally were District 65, Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, CIO, and the Jewish Labor Committee.

Urges 'New Underground Railroad' for Witnesses To Flee from Mississippi

Daily Worker

Des Moines, Iowa

Thurs. 10-20-55

New York.—Roy Wilkins, NAACP executive secretary, told 20,000 persons at a rally in the garment district here last week that the national administration should send its widely-publicized "team" to Mississippi to clean up the racist-dominated state.

The rally was called by District 65, Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union-CIO, jointly fith the NAACP, to protest the Mississippi lynching of 14-year-old Emmett Till.

In addition to Mr. Wilkins, speakers included Rep. Adam Clayton Powell (D-NY); Rabbi Israel Goldstein, president of the American Jewish Congress; Msgr. Cornelius J. Drew, pastor of St. Charles Roman Catholis Church in New York; and the Rev. Donald Harrington, minister of the Community Church here. Also addressing the rally were David Livingston, Arthur Osman and Cleveland Robinson, officers of District 65.

Mr. Wilkins termed a Mississippi jury trial which acquitted the two white kidnappers of murdering Emmett Till "a travesty, a farce, a joke so far as it demonstrated the American principle of trial by jury to secure a just verdlict."

Powell Urges Boycott

A national boycott of "everything made in Mississippi" was urged by Rep. Powell, who offered to read a list of Mississippi-made products into the Congressional Record as well as to give other publicity to such a list. The suggestion was cheered loudly by the crowd.

In other proposals for action against Mississippi, scene of widespread terror tactics against Negroes, the New York Congressman called for a "new Underground Railroad" to bring Negro murder witnesses out of Mississippi to "free soil" where they could give information without fear of death, a march on Washington to demand an emergency session of Congress for the purpose of enacting anti-lynch legislation, and to the organization of a new political party dedicated to civil rights for all citizens if the existing major parties fail to take effective action.

The Congressman told a cheering crowd he will introduce a resolution on the opening day of Congress to deny Congressional seats to representatives of states which refuse to allow Negroes "to freely exercise their franchise without fear of lynching or coercion of any kind." He asked for "a flood of letters" to Congressional members demanding passage of the resolution.

P. 6

The Catholic, Jewish and Protestant clergymen asked for wide support of the NAACP.

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Attempts To Avert Harm To Lynching Victim Told

CHICAGO — (NNPA) — New details of the kidnapping preceeding the murder of 14-year-old Emmett Louis Till were told Friday after the body of the Chicago youth arrived for burial Saturday.

The accounts were given by Mrs Mose Wright, 55, of Money, Mississippi, a great-aunt of Emmett, and Curtis Jones, 17, a Crane Tech senior and a second cousin of Emmett. Both returned from Mississippi for the funeral.

"We knew they were out to mob the boy", said Mrs Wright. "They came and took the boy and killed him."

"When I heard the men at the door, I ran to Emmett's room and tried to wake him so I could get him out the back door into the cotton fields. But they were already in the front door before I could shake him awake."

Jones, who is a grandson of the Wrights, also recalled hearing his grandfather, Mose, make a futile plea to the kidnapers that they only whip Emmett.

"My grandfather told them that he (Emmett) didn't have good sense because he had polio when he was three years old and that his mind and speech had been affected," Jones said.

They placed the time of the kidnaping at 2 a.m., Sunday morning, August 28. Wednesday, August 31, Emmett's body was found weighted down in the Tallahatchie river. There was a bullet hole in the head and evidence of severe beating.

Roy Bryant, 25, a grocer in Money, and a half brother, J. W. Milan, 40, have since been arrested on kidnaping charges. A charge of kidnaping also has been issued against Mrs Bryant, who has not been found by deputy sheriffs.

Mrs Wright and Jones also asserted that there was a third man who waited at the door while Bryant and Milan came into the Wright home for Emmett. They also said Mrs Bryant was waiting in a car in front of the home.

"Preacher, this is Mr Bryant, and we're here to talk to you about that boy from Chicago." Mrs Wright and Jones recalled overhearing as Wright answered loud knocks at the door. (They explained that Wright was addressed as 'preacher" because he is also minister of the Church of God and Christ in Money.)

Mrs Wright and Jones identified the two men who pushed their way into the house as Bryant and Milan. They also said Milan carried a "long gun" and a big flashlight.

Mrs Wright said she was ordered to get back in bed and "keep your yap shut" as she returned after trying to awaken Emmett in an adjoining bedroom.

Also in the house at the time were three boys, aged 12 to 16, of the Wrights', and Willard Parker, 16, of Argo, a Chicago suburb, another grandson there on a visit.

Jones said the two men went from room to room shining the light into the faces of the others until they found Emmett in the fourth bedroom.

"Are you the one who did the smart talk up in Money," one of the men was quoted as asking Emmett.

Jones said that when he answered "Yeh", the man said: "Don't say 'yeh' to me or I'll knock hell out of you."

After the elder Wright asked that the boy be given a whipping, one of the men said: "He isn't going no place if he ain't the right one. We'll bring him back and put him to bed."

Jones said his grandfather, Mose Wright, then went to the porch and heard a woman in the car answer "yes" as the two men brought Emmett before her. Emmett then was placed in the car. It was the last time he was seen alive by the family.

We all remember the case of Emmett Till, the colored boy alleged to have been kidnapped and then murdered for making a "wolf whistle" at a white woman in a small Mississippi town.

The two men charged with the murder went free because, in the jury's opinion, there was a reasonable doubt as to the identity of the body.

* * *

THERE REMAINED then a separate charge of kidnapping in the jurisdiction of a neighboring county.

But there is no trial on the kidnapping charge. The grand jury has returned no indictment. The district attorney says: "That the end of the case as far as this county is concerned."

The grand jury's failure to find sufficient prima facie evidence to let the kidnapping charge come to trial is a blow to the State of Mississippi and an

FROM THROUGHOUT NATION

Till case reaction

The failure of the Leflore (Miss.) County grand jury to indict J. W. Milam and Roy Bryant was assailed by daily newspapers in all section of the nation.

Typical of the comments:

RALEIGH (NC.) NEWS AND OBSERVER

There will be much expression of indignation as a result of the refusal yesterday of a Mississippi grand jury to indict the two white men on charges of kidnapping the colored boy of whose murder, but murder in Mississipted.

Apparently the whole case is closed. Nobody will be given even slight punishment for the brutal murder of a 14 - year - old boy.

And some may feel that such a result constitutes the triumph of white supremacy in Mississippi. The truth is murder has won.

* * *

TWO MEN may be freed of murder, but murder in Mississippi remains unavenged—and the murder of a child.

The guilt is transferred from the kidnappers and killers of this child to Mississippi justice itself.

BALTIMORE SUN

embarrassment to our judicial institutions generally.

MURRAY KEMPTON (NY POST)

It is now official, J. W. Milam and Roy Bryandt were not alone when they snatched a 14 - year-old colored boy out of a cotton-picker's cabin in the dark night he died. The flower of Mississippi rode with them.

Yesterday, 20 Leflore County grand jurors took upon themselves and their state the whole burden of whatever atonement J. W. Milam and Roy Bryant must some day, somewhere pay.

THE CATHOLIC

There are still sink holes where the flow of culture has stopped dead and stagnated, presenting a bilious, green look and assailing the nostrils.

In these islands of stunted citizenship, the local aristocrats call themselves Americans like the rest of us. They talk bigger than the rest of us.

But their real stature is measured by the fact that they will short change a poor colored person, then challenge him to do something about it.

Or, they will murder him, knowing that neighborly white jurors will find them 'Not guilty' and will expect the same small service if they should strike a similar blow for white supremacy.

Certainly, most criminal trials are honestly conducted in the United States. So that when a jury brings in a verdict, the most conscientious citizen may presume that it would be his verdict if he were a member of the panel. But while this presumption can be generally applied, there are instances and localities where it cannot.

* * *

THE LOCALITY, might be—although not necessarily — some little oasis in the South where ignorance flourishes as luxuriantly as the cotton plant. The instance might be—but, again, not necessarily—the trial of a white man for assaulting or cheating a colored girl.

We are not thinking here of the correctness of any particular verdict which might be reached. It might actually be the fairest in the world. Or, the most unfair. We are thinking of the presumption which a sane, observant man would have to make concerning its correctness.

Considering the mentality and temper of the jurors in the circumstances we have noted, he would have to presume that the white man got more than a fair trial and the colored man got less.

NAACP LEADER SLAIN, DIXIE SHERIFF SAYS

BELZONI, Miss.—(INS)—A Mississippi Sheriff said Wednesday that a Negro Civil Rights Leader thought to have perished in an automobile accident was a murder victim.

Sheriff I. J. Shelton of Belzoni, along with other authorities had previously said the Rev. G. W. Lee was killed in an automobile crash.

Lee's body was found in the crashed car in Belzoni on May 7.

Subsequently, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People charged that he was murdered because he had urged Negroes to vote.

The NAACP demanded Gov. Hugh White to initiate a full investigation into the death.

Meanwhile, a Negro dentist, Dr. A. H. McCoy of Jackson, conducted his own investigation and after examining Lee's body said the Baptist minister was killed by shotgun pellets.

Belzoni authorities said they thought the pieces of lead found in Lee's mouth were parts of teeth fillings. Nevertheless, Sheriff Shelton sent the particles to a laboratory for testing.

Shelton said Wednesday, "the lab test showed that the lead was shotgun pellets. I'm convinced that he was shot to death."

Shelon had no further comment to make until after a coroner's jury issues a verdict. The jury probably will meet today, the sheriff said.

In its charge that Lee was murdered, the NAACP said several persons heard what sounded like shots shortly befoer the automobile crashed.

Sheriff I. J. Shelton said: "Things are just as quiet as you could want them." He said there are no new developments in the inquiry into the death May 7 of Rev. George W. Lee.

Lee was found fatally injured in his wrecked car. The Federal Bureau of Investigation Laboratory said specks of metal around his face resembled buckshot.

Sheriff Shelton said officers are still questioning several persons in connection with the case. He said two or three Negroes told him Lee had been threatened by other Negroes. He said Lee was known as a "ladies' man."

Meanwhile, a Negro teacher who the National Association for Advancement of Colored People said had disappeared after Lee's death, turned up Monday and explained her "disappearance."

Olivia Robinson, identified by the NAACP as Olivia White, told the nUited Press she had simply moved to the other side of town.

She said her move was not prompted by Lee's death and she had not been threatened by any one.

BELZONI 'NICE, QUIET' AFTER NAACP MEETING

No New Developments On Inquiry Into Lee Death

Special to The Commercial Appeal

BELZONI, Miss., May 23. — Everything was "nice and quiet" in Belzoni Monday after a mass meeting Sunday at which Negro eulogized a Negro minister who their charge was murdered because of his anti-segregation activity.

BELZONI, Miss., May 22. — Four hundred Negroes from throughout Mississippi gathered here Sunday for a meeting that was entirely free of interference from white people. They heard the NAACP's national spokesman charge that Rev. George Wesley Lee was shot May 7 because he thought he ought to vote just like other Americans."

Roy Wilkins of New York, executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, also used the special statewide meeting as an occasion to denounce the pro-segregationist white Citizens Councils for "trying to turn back the clock to make the seas be still."

Had Asked U. S. Protection

Before the meeting, state NAACP leaders had wired an appeal to Atty. Gen. Herbert Brownell for Federal protection during the assembly, but none was in evidence.

Except for the brisk talk of racial equality that reached the overflow crowd of Negroes at the Elks' Rest Auditorium, the pace of life in Belzoni appeared to remain at its usual Sunday pace—slow and quiet.

Two state troopers in plain clothes and a uniformed Belzoni policeman were the only law officers to visit the block in which Elks' Rest is located.

The two troopers left before the meeting was over. The single local officer's only words within the hearing of reporters came when he started to ask Wilkins a question after the meeting. He did not complete the question, and walked away muttering.

The only other whites attending the meeting were a group of reporters and photographers, and one person who was identified as being from LeMoyne College in Memphis.

No Whites In Vicinity

No white Belzoni citizens were within sight of the meeting place. Downtown streets just a few blocks away were almost deserted, which is customary in Belzoni on any Sunday.

Wilkins said in an interview following the meeting he does not believe the Citizens Council ordered that Lee be killed, "and I don't believe they advocated that anybody be killed."

He maintained, however, the policies of the Citizens Councils create an atmosphere for violence.

"Whenever respectable white people — the minister, banker, lawyer and department store owner—speak strongly of (stopping Negro advancement) 'by any means short of violence' the white citizen who is irresponsible is not equipped to deal with the situation," said Wilkins.

"The next thing is that the irresponsible one doesn't stop short of it, and there is violence."

Wilkins told the enthusiastic crowd that Lee's death occurred after "some threatened him and told him he should withdraw his name from the (voting) registration list. He refused to do this because he was an American and Americans have the right to vote."

Lee, 51-year-old Baptist minister and Belzoni NAACP leader, died a few minutes after his car careened off a Negro neighborhood street and crashed against a house. Negroes who said they were witnesses told Sheriff Ike J. Shelton they heard shotgun blasts just before the wreck.

Bits of metal taken from Lee's face were identified by the Federal Bureau of Investigation last week as pellets resembling No. 3 buckshot.

No suspects have been arrested. The sheriff has said he doesn't know whether it was a murder or an accidental death.

Claims Witness Left

Wilkins said one witness to the minister's death had left town in a hurry. He identified her as a school teacher named Olivia White.

Wilkins said the NAACP had tried to locate her. "But we aren't detectives and we haven't found her."

In his comments on the Citizens Councils, Wilkins said this loosely-knit organization of white men had talked a great deal about maintaining segregation in the public schools.

Actualy, the NAACP official said, the councils are "primarily interested in keeping Negroes away from the ballot box."

Essentially because of the council's activities, the number of registered Negro voters in Mississippi has dropped in recent months from about 20,000 to about 8,000, he said.

Wilkins was reared in St. Louis but he said he felt he was "at home" because his parents had spent most of their lives in Holly Springs, Miss.

Others Address Meeting

Speeches praising the dead minister and calling for unified action by Negroes to end segregation were also made by Ruby Hurley of Birmingham, regional NAACP director, and Dr. A. H. McCoy, Negro dentist who is state president of the organization.

Negro delegates from Jackson, Natchez, Vicksburg, Clarksdale, Hattiesburg, Laurel, Meridian and numerous other Mississippi towns attended the meeting. They gave speakers vigorous applause. When collection plates were passed, they contributed $1,250 for NAACP's "freedom crusade." The donations ranged from a coin or two to $150.

The slogan of the NAACP crusade is "we shall be free by 1963." That year is the 100th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation.

Copies of a Chicago Negro newspaper, the Defender, had been distributed throughout the auditorium. Its headline read "Lynching in Mississippi" and carried an account of Lee's death.

Wilkins said the newspaper that day apparently had been "interested in selling papers."

BELZONI IS PEACEFUL AS NEGROES CONDUCT MEMORIAL MEETING

NAACP Spokesman Says Dead Minister Paid Price For Trying To Vote

400 FILL AUDITORIUM

Except For Three Officers And Few Reporters, No Whites Are Seen In Area—Citizens Councils Hit

By JAMES COOK
Staff Writer

Miss. Pastor Slain; Blame 'KKK' Gang

BELZONI, Miss.—A militant Baptist minister whose constant crusading for equal rights won him the enmity of local bigots, was shot down in gangland style here last week, provoking the question of whether or not the White Citizens Council was behind his murder.

The late Rev. George W. Lee, assassinated while driving down a Belzoni Street on May 8, was buried from the Green Grove Baptist Church, with Dr. W. M. Walton, president of the Progressive Baptist Convention, officiating.

An overflow crowd turned out for the obsequies, including such notables as Dr. T. R. M. Howard of Mound Bayou, president of the Regional Council of Negro Leadership; Mrs. Ruby Hurley, regional NAACP secretary, and hundreds of other notables.

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THE REV. MR. LEE, 51-year-old minister and businessman, was fatally wounded by three gun blasts as he drove down Church Street.

The NAACP indirectly implicated the White Citizens Council in the assassination by charging that the anti-Negro group had placed the Rev. Mr. Lee on its "black list" because he had been active in a drive to register more Negro voters in Humphries County.

Over the week-end, there had been no verdict from the coroner's jury which had weighed the evidence in the case.

The coroner is reportedly awaiting a report from the Washington offices of the FBI concerning metal particles found in Lee's shattered jaw and what were believed to be powder burns found in the flesh of his face.

• • •

HUMPHRIES COUNTY has been the scene of growing tension ever since the organization of a "Citizens Council" unit. The whites organization opposition to the enfranchisement of Negroes and it was generally known that white businessmen were passing a list of Negro voters around.

This list became the target for economic pressures. On the list was T. V. Johnson whose funeral home handled the Rev. Mr. Lee's body, and grocer Gus Coates, who was forced to quit a building that he was renting.

In addition to this intimidation, cars have raced at night through Belzoni's Negro section with rocks being tossed through windows, windshields broken with bricks, and pop bottles tossed at parked autos.

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THE CAR from which the Rev. Mr. Lee was slain, according to eye-witnesses, was a convertible.

Sheriff Ike Shelton has promised a complete investigation into the slaying.

Dr. A. H. McCoy, president of the Mississippi State NAACP Conference, said:

"The Rev. Mr. Lee was one of the first Negroes to qualify for voting in Humphries County. He was a leader helping his people to live the Christian life. He was a man who believed in and advocated living by the principles of democratic government.

"In face of previous threats and intimidations, he refused to follow orders to tear up his poll tax receipt and have his name removed from the registration book in Humphries County because he believed in our republican form of government."

Time For U.S. To Act

A Negro minister was killed in Belzoni, Miss., two weeks ago under circumstances that warrant a federal investigation.

According to L. A. Wilson of the Tri-State Defender in Memphis who broke the story, the gangland style assasination of Rev. George Lee was the climax of a reign of terror that has been conducted by whites in the town for several weeks.

Mr. Wilson is known to us as a responsible newspaperman, a stickler for accuracy and mature enough to evaluate the facts once he has gathered them.

It is his opinion that the slaying was actually a lynching intended to deter the efforts of Negroes to assert their rights as citizens and as human beings in the state.

It followed by less than a week a stirring mass meeting at Mound Bayou attended by 3,000 persons at which freshman Congressman Charles Diggs of Detroit voiced the hopes and aspirations of Negroes in Mississippi in regard to their civil rights.

It came after the Elk's Rest in Belzoni was broken into and virtually destroyed by white hoodlums, and after the windows of a number of cars owned by Negroes were broken out by white vandals.

It came after police refused to act time and again in Negroes' complaints of these outrages.

It happened during an economic battle between whites and Negroes that resulted when whites began to withdraw credit from Negroes because they would not voluntarily accept jim crow schools in spite of the May 17 decision of the Supreme Court making them unconstitutional.

The Department of Justice has remained silent during all the long months that tension was being built up in the state by Negro-hating whites who have openly conspired to deny Negroes their rights as American citizens.

It is time now for federal action. The government can ill afford at this time or any other to capitulate to a few hoodlum whites who finger their noses at the constitution, the bill of rights and federal authority.

The veneer of democracy our national capital, Washington has recently acquired cannot conceal the dark, ugly un-American goings on in Mississippi and other benighted areas of the country.

It is America's shame and America's blame that Rev. Lee was slain—and federal action should be coming forthwith.

Mississippi Lynching Is Not The End, Noted Jurist Declares

DOTHAN, Ala.—The Emmett Till lynching in Mississippi is not the end of reprisals against Negroes in the south, a noted jurist declared here last week.

Judge Hubert T. Delany of New York told an overflow audience at an NAACP sponsored mass meeting that "this is fight for freedom for all Americans."

The Emmett Till lynching, he said, has shocked "not only the nation but the world."

Warning that southern Negro teachers, professional persons and businessmen may lose their jobs or be "unable to earn a living" in their communities because of reprisals, Judge Delany urged his audience not to be "dicouraged."

"They cannot kill the indominitable spirit of freedom within you," he declared.

Both sides doubt conviction—

Birmingham News

Lawyers argue Mississippi kidnap-murder case before jury

Fri. 9-23-55

BY GAM JOHNSON

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 23—(AP)—Dist. Atty. Gerald Chatham, opening final state arguments, today told the jury it should convict two white men of slaying 14-year-old Emmett Till. He charged that 24-year-old Roy Bryant and his 36-year-old half-brother, John W. Milam, gave the Chicago boy "a court-martial with the death penalty imposed."

P 22

Chatham told the jury:

"I was born and reared in the South. I'll live and die in the South. The very worst punishment that could have occurred or should have occurred if they had any idea in their minds that this boy had done anything was to take a razor strap, turn him over a barrel and give him a little beating.

"I've whipped my boy. You've whipped yours. A man deals with a child accordingly as a child, not as man to man."

Birmingham

DISREGARD OUTSIDE influence and consider only the evidence presented from the witness stand, Chatham urged the jury.

"I, as your district attorney, am not concerned with the pressure and agitation of organizations outside or inside the State of Mississippi," he said.

"As far as the state is concerned, this is just another murder case.

"But I am concerned with what is morally right . . . To be concerned with anything else will be dangerous to the precepts and traditions of the South."

THE CASE appeared likely to reach a jury during the afternoon.

Circuit Judge Curtis Swango Jr. recessed the trial for lunch halfway through closing arguments by the defense, during which Atty. Sidney Carlton asked how Mose Wright, the dead boy's uncle, could testify Milam carried a pistol during the abduction when the only light came from a flashlight shining in Wright's face.

"Had any of you gone to Mose Wright's house with evil intent," asked Carlton, "would you have given your name? There's nothing reasonable about the state's theory."

He went on: "If that's identification, if that places these men at that scene, then none of us are safe," he shouted.

THE DEFENSE finished its case after presenting six character witnesses, three each for 24-year-old Roy Bryant and his 36-year-old half-brother, John W. Milam. Attorneys were expected to begin arguments to the jury before noon.

The defendants did not testify.

Circuit Judge Curtis Swango again overruled defense motions for a directed verdict of innocent.

In Mississippi, the state opens and closes the final arguments. The defense argument is sandwiched in between.

The half-brother are accused of murdering Emmett Louis Till, 14-year-old Negro and dumping his weighted body into the Tallahatchie River.

DEFENSE ATTORNEYS appeared confident the all-male, all-white jury would free Bryant and Milam—principally, they felt, as a result of testimony by three defense witnesses disputing identification of the battered body as that of Till.

State attorneys privately vioced doubt they would get a guilty verdict.

Both Bryant and Milam are under indictment in Tallahatchie County for kidnaping in connection with Till's disappearance. They also are charged with kidnaping in neighboring LeFlore County, from which Till disappeared. They were tried only on the murder charge.

Dist. Atty. Gerald Chatham has said repeatedly the men could not be tried for kidnaping at this term of Circuit Court in Tallahatchie County. Next term of court is next Spring.

The state rested its case at 1:56 p.m. yesterday.

MRS. MAMIE BRADLEY, Till's widowed mother, cried as she looked at a picture of the body yesterday.

She said it was her son "beyond a shadow of a doubt."

But three defense witnesses cast doubt.

Sheriff H. C. Strider of Tallahatchie County said the body appeared to have been in the river "at least 10 days, if not 15."

A country undertaker, H. D. Malone, estimated the time in the water at 10-25 days.

Dr. L. B. Otken, a physician from nearby Greenwood, put the time at from eight days to two weeks.

DEFENSE ATTORNEYS asked Dr. Otken: "In your opinion, could anyone have identified the body?"

Dr. Otken answered: "I don't think so."

Q. If he had been his brother, could he? A. I doubt it.

Q. His mother? A. I doubt it.

All three witnesses said the body was bloated and badly decomposed.

This was a critical point because only three days elapsed from the time Till was taken from his uncle's home until the body was found by a teen-aged fisherman.

ON CROSS-EXAMINATION, the state drew agreement from both Dr. Otken and Sheriff Strider that a body that had been badly injure would decompose more rapidly than a normal body.

Earlier, Chatham said the state would not seek the death penalty, as "a substantial part of its evidence is circumstantial."

Thus, the defendants — if convicted — faced a maximum of life imprisonment, unless the jury overturns precedent and orders death without the state asking for it.

MRS. CAROLYN BRYANT, wife of the Money storekeeper accused of murder, testified a Negro with "a Northern brogue" molested her a few days before Till was kidnaped early Aug. 28.

Circuit Judge Curtis Swango Jr. ruled the jury could not hear the bulk of her testimony because it happened too long before the abduction. However, it was admitted to the court record.

"This Negro man came into the store," began the pretty 21-year-old mother of two children, "and stopped at the candy counter."

She said he ordered bubble gum.

"I held out my right hand for some money," she continued. "He caught my hand. I pulled away. He said, 'How about a date, baby?'

"I turned and started to the back of the store. He caught me at the cash register and put both hands around my waist. He said, 'What's the matter, baby, can't you take it?'"

THE YOUNG MOTHER said she pulled away. She said the Negro used unprintable words which she refused to repeat. She said he concluded with: "I've been with white women before."

Mrs. Bryant bowed her head, hesitated and spoke softly as she told the latter part of her story.

Another Negro, she said, came in and pulled the first negro out of Bryant's little store.

"I started out to go to the car for my pistol," Mrs. Bryant said. "He (the first negro) was standing on the front porch of the store. He whistled."

Defense Attorney Sidney Carlton puckered his lips and wolf-whistled. Mrs. Bryant said it was about the same.

Mrs. Bryant said she was alone during this incident, her husband away on a business trip.

DEFENSE ATTORNEYS did not ask Mrs. Bryant the identity of the Negro molester and whistler.

Other witnesses placed the 14-

NEGRO BOY FOUND SLAIN

Times

Two Men Held in Mississippi in Kidnapped Child's Death

Thurs. 9-1-55

GREENWOOD, Miss., Aug. 31 (AP)—The weighted body of a 14-year-old Negro boy, kidnapped three days ago because he was said to have made "ugly remarks" to a white woman, was taken from the Tallahatchie River today.

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The boy, Emmitt Louis Till of Chicago, who had been visiting his uncle, Mose Wright, at near-by Money, died of a bullet wound above the right ear.

Sheriff George Smith of LeFlore County said two white men, charged with kidnapping, would be charged with murder. They are Roy Bryant of Money, a store keeper, and his half-brother, J. W. Milam of Glendora. The sheriff said Bryant had admitted taking Till from his uncle's home but said the boy was released unharmed.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People said the boy's death appeared to be a lynching and demanded vigorous prosecution.

The boy allegedly made "ugly remarks" to Mrs. Bryant, the storekeeper's wife, last week. He was buried this afternoon at Money.

ACCUSED SLAYERS FOUND NOT GUILTY

New Orleans Times-Picayune

Pair Immediately Arrested on Kidnap Count

By W. F. MINOR

(Times-Picayune Staff Correspondent)

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 23 — An all-white Mississippi Delta jury Friday deliberated only 1 hour and five minutes and found two white men innocent of the murder of Emmett Louis Till, a 14-year-old Chicago Negro school boy.

Sat 9-24-55

But shortly afterwards, the two—Roy Bryant, 24-year-old Money storekeeper and his brother-in-law, J. W. Milam, 36—were arrested by Leflore county officers on a charge of kidnaping the Till boy.

After the verdict was read, Circuit Judge Curtis M. Swango announced that kidnaping indictments against the two men by a Tallahatchie grand jury were being nolle prossed at the request of Dist. Atty. Gerald Chatham, giving Leflore county jurisdiction over the men.

Bryant and Milam were tried before a Tallahatchie county jury on the murder charge because a body believed to be Till's was found floating in a river within the county.

Till was allegedly taken from the cotton patch house of his great uncle, Mose Wright, near Money on Aug. 28 and has not been seen since.

Meets Next Month

Charges of kidnaping have been filed against the two men in Leflore county and will be presented to the Leflore grand jury when it meets next month by District Attorney Stanny Sander. Maximum penalty under the kidnap statute is 10 years.

The verdict here was handed to the clerk by jury foreman J. A. Shaw, a Webb farmer, at 3:40 p. m. It was only two words: "Not guilty."

Shaw said that the jury had reached a unanimous verdict on the third ballot. On the first ballot, three of the jurors had abstained from voting. On the second ballot, two had abstained, he said.

As the verdict was read, Milam, a big hulking bald-headed man, sat rocking in an old cane-backed rocking chair puffing on a cigar.

Bryant, wearing a frightened look, clutched the right hand of his brunette wife in his own left hand.

Moments later the two men and their wives kissed and smiled for newspaper, television and newsreel cameramen who swarmed over the front of the courtroom.

District Attorney Chatham, looking physically fatigued, said he "accepted the verdict and I abide by it . . . the trial by jury is one of the sacred guarantees of our constitution.

Had Been Confident

Chief defense attorney J. J. Brelands said he had been confident since he was first retained in the defense that "any jury of reasonable men would return such a verdict."

To the sweaty, tense courtroom audience, it was clear that not two men but a system as old as the Constitution of the United States, and a way of life which may be older, had been on trial.

The way of life was stated in unmistakable terms by the defense as it closed its case before the all-white jury Friday afternoon.

"There are people in the United States that want to destroy the traditions and way of life of the Southern colored people," bespectacled attorney John C. Whitten told the jury.

Such forces, Whitten asserted, "would create a stir, a trial such as this to focus national attention

on Sumner, Miss., on strained race relations in Mississippi."

The red-haired attorney, cousin of a United States congressman, with a sweep of his hand to indicate the dozens of newspapermen, television and radio people who had attended the trial, declared:

"Some can recognize at a glance the great power created by a little incident in Sumner, Miss."

"We're damned if we do and damned if we don't," he added.

'Try to Widen Gap'

He told the jury that there were groups which would "commit any crime to widen the gap that has recently appeared between the colored and white people in the United States."

A hushed courtroom then heard him say:

"They would go so far as to put a stinking body in Tallahatchie river with the hope that it could be identified as Emmett Till."

Whitten scanned the jury and said he saw six men in the jury box who 35 years ago had seen an effort to "revive an organization known as the Ku Klux Klan, but it did not last long."

"There were three Negro bodies taken from the river at Greenville and it was said that it was the work of the Ku Klux Klan. . . But it was found later that the bodies had all been embalmed."

The attorney said that "to meet such tactics we must put your trust in the hands of your fellow men."

Special prosecutor Robert B. Smith III, Ripley, a former FBI agent, strode before the jury when Whitten had completed his arguments.

Smith said he "completely agreed" with Whitten that the South faced serious times from outside influences.

"The United States Constitution guarantees the rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," the boyish-looking Smith declared.

"So long as we preserve those rights, for white or black, we can continue our way of life.

"But once we get to the point that we deprive people of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, then we are on the defensive."

'Cowardly Act'

Outsiders who have sought to interfere in the Till case, Smith told the jury, "want J. W. Milam and Roy Bryant turned loose."

Earlier, Dist. Atty. Chatham charged in his closing argument that the murder of Till "was a cowardly act, and an unnecessary killing of a human being."

He said that the opening testimony in the case when old Mose Wright took the stand and told that he was roused from his sleep early on the morning of Aug. 28 by two white men seeking Till "was absolutely dripping with blood."

Chatham said that the defense had sought to tear down the state's proof of the identity of the body pulled from the Tallahatchie river on Aug. 31 as that of Emmett Till.

"Mamie Bradley (Till's mother) was God's given witness to identify that body," Chatham declared.

"It doesn't take a doctor or an undertaker to identify a body . . . it just takes someone who knew and loved that body to identify that body."

The wife of Bryant had declared on the witness stand in the trial that a Negro had come into the country store while she was alone and made an indecent proposal to her and "wolf whistled" at her.

'A Good Beating'

This had been the incident which authorities believed led to the disappearance of the Chicago Negro youth.

Without mentioning the incident, Chatham said in his argument:

"If they had been offended by this boy, the very worst punishment that should have occurred was to take a razor strap, turn him over a barrel and give him a good beating."

The district attorney, who is retiring in January after 14 years in the office, told the jury that he was not concerned with the pressures of any organization outside or inside the state of Mississippi.

"I am concerned with what is legally and morally right and wrong in the state of Mississippi."

He told the jurors that a guilty verdict "would not upset the precepts and traditions we hold sacred in the South."

Defense attorney Sidney Carlton argued to the jury that the identifications supplied by the state of Emmett Till's body and the placement of the defendants at the scene were not sufficient to merit a conviction of the defendants.

Dixie Newsman Probes Till Case

A Mississippi newspaperman who spent 24 hours in Chicago "investigating" certain angles of the Till case declared last week that the Chicago NAACP is holding three witnesses in the case as prisoners.

The charge termed "ridiculous" by NAACP officials, was made in a series of articles appearing in the Jackson (Miss.) Daily News under the by-line of Bill Spell.

Spell arrived in Chicago Monday in a National Guard plane accompanied by W. J. Chrisler and left Tuesday morning. Chrisler was identified as an aide to the governor of Mississippi, Hugh White.

Before leaving, he told the Defender he had not completed his assignment and was rushing back to Mississippi to accept a new position with an oil company.

Mrs. Cora Patton Andrews, president of the Chicago branch NAACP, said that Spell's charge was ridiculous and without foundation.

"Mr. Spell did not bother to call our office to ask our help in his investigation. If he had, he would have learned that nobody is being held captive as he has charged."

Two of the witnesses, Wright and Mrs. Bradley, when contacted, denied they were being held prisoner by anyone. Reed, a patient at Michael Reese hospital, could not be reached for a statement.

Said Wright:

"Well, now I guess I have heard everything. I not only came to Chicago of my own free will, but I brought my wife and my three children, too. I paid all our expenses.

"I am afraid to return to Mississippi to live. But I definitely They can't do nothing more than kill me."

Mrs. Bradley declared:

"That's the most fantastic story I have heard yet. Nobody is keeping me here. I wanted to come here and I did, paying my own expenses. I haven't been threatened but I don't want to return to Mississippi."

Local newspapermen were sharply critical of a maneuver used by Spell to see Reed who suffered a nervous breakdown and has been denied any visitors including the press.

According to Lloyd Eddelstein of the Chicago American, Chrisler used his credentials as an aide to the governor to have Spell, who posed as an officer, interview Reed.

Reed, who has been fed intravenously because he can't keep food on his stomach, is reported to have suffered a relapse after Spell's visit.

Explaining his role in the incident, Police Capt. Thomas Kelly of Prairie avenue station, said:

"They said they were given permission by the commissioner's office to visit Reed, who is in my district at Michael Reese hospital. I was led to believe that Spell was a Mississippi policeman and Chrisler was a representative of Gov. White.

"I assigned Lt. Edward Wolfle to take them to the hospital, which he did."

SURVEY FINDS U. S. HURT BY TILL CASE

American Jewish Group Cites Reaction Abroad—Urges Strict Civil Rights Code

Federal legislation to strengthen the Justice Department's civil rights powers was urged yesterday in a special report by the American Jewish Committee.

The committee's report stressed that United States prestige abroad had been "seriously damaged" by the Till case. It featured a survey of public reaction in North Africa and Europe concerning the acquittal of two men accused of murdering Emmett Till, a 14-year-old Negro boy, in Mississippi.

The report, issued by Irving M. Engel, president of the agency, and former Federal Judge Simon H. Rifkind, asserted that European condemnatio nhad been "swift, violent and universal," and not limited to Communist or Communist-controlled groups, adding that this criticism came from liberal and conservative elements.

At the same time, the report made the fololwing three recommendations:

1—Strengthening existing Federal law to make attacks against an individual because of his race, color or religion a violation of United States civil rights statutes.

2—Reorganizing the Department of Justice to raise the Civil Rights Section to Divisional status under an Assistant Attorney General with powers to investigate and prosecute all offenses against civil rights.

3—Increasing the personnel of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to the extent necessary to investigate all violations of civil rights under Federal law and to provide the necessary training and instruction of all these agents.

The report cited an extensive survey of press and opinion leaders that was conducted by the committee's correspondents in France, Belgium, Italy, Switzerland, Germany and Tunisia.

New Drive Set in Congress

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 21—The report appeared here to foreshadow another ad more intensive drive when Congress reconvenes in January for enactment of the long-pending civil rights program. It got nowhere in the first session.

Two Congressional civil rights advocates responded to the committee's report.

Immediate concurrence with the committee's findings and recommendations came from Senator Paul H. Douglas, Democrat of Illinois, and Representative Emanuel Celler, the Brooklyn Democrat who heads the House Judiciary Committee.

Mr. Celler proposed an additional legislative "remedy" to operate against strict enforcement of civil rights law. He would deny Federal and to states that in his opinion were lax.

Senator Douglas said that the American Jewish Committee had rendered "a great service" in the making of its report to the people as well as to Congressional committees.

"It is certainly time that we strengthen our Federal status to make attacks against an individual because of his race, color or religion a violation of our federal law," Mr. Douglas said.

He agreed also that an ifficia of sub-Cabinet rank should be installed with power to investigate and prosecute offenses against civil rights, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation be augmented and trained to run down violations in that field.

8879

Till Lynching Displaces Cotton, Jim Crow As Top Topic In Delta

Defender 1-3 Chicago Ill.
Sat. 9-17-55

Desegregation and cotton remained in the background as conversation topics in Mississippi's Delta last Wednesday, the day after the two white half brothers were indicted on charges of kidnapping and murdering a Chicago youth.



Cochran

In Greenwood, which is near Money, where the boy allegedly "wolf whistled" at a young brunet to trigger the trouble, Negro leaders were praising Sheriff George W. Smith for the way his office handled the LeFlore county end of the case.

But they were keeping fingers crossed as eyes turned to Tallahatchie county for further action.

At Sumner (about 1,000 population) second county seat of Tallahatchie, scene of the indictments and arraignments and probable site of the trial, whites said they expected the indictments but almost to the man, took whacks at outside interference, especially the NAACP.

Back at Money, a whistle stop burg of around 350, this including all the tenant farmers and sharecroppers in a several mile area, the folks aren't having much to say.

The one thing most agreed upon in the Delta is that everyone is sorry about Till's death. Reasons for the sorrow vary.

Greenwood's NAACP is betting that Mississippi law will do justice in this case.

Branch president, Edward V. Cochran, operator of the Plaza hotel in Greenwood and a West Virginia State graduate, talked about the matter on a NBC TV reel a few nights ago.

Cochran said, "I have not lost faith in trial by jury and the people of Mississippi feel the same way."

ACT NOT CONDONED

He said, "what these two men did is not condoned by Negro nor white.

"My personal opinion is that the law enforcement officers are doing a good job in bringing these murderers to justice."

Cochran says it now becomes the duty of the district attorney and jury to "see that the two are punished."

He was among the six Negroes in the Sumner courthouse during the arraignments.

L. H. Threadgill, supervising principal of the city's Negro schools — Broad Street high, Stone Street and McLauren Street elementary schools — says, "everyone I've talked to has expressed the hope justice will be done."

Rev. M. W. Lindsey, pastor of Wesley Methodist church in Greenwood, opined:

"Negroes here are very much disturbed over the slaying, but are happy about the job the law officers of this county (LeFlore) have done. Uniquely, this is a case in which whites are equally disturbed.

EXPECTING JUSTICE

"We are watching to see if justice will be done this time."

John Henry Moore, a contractor, observed that at least 10 white citizens had personally told him how much they regretted the incident.

He said it was particularly distressing to some Mississippians, coming as it did while many were strenuously voicing disagreement with the Supreme Court edict.

From Sumner, Phil Stroupe, wrote the following report on white citizens' reactions:

"Justice should be done, but we resent outside interference from Northern Negroes who don't know the facts." That's the way Vernon Brett, Sumner wholesale grocerman sized up the situation.

"People in general have changed their minds as to what should be done in the case," Brett said. "We go overboard to help our Negroes and treat them fairly, but we resent the NAACP and other outside influence that will hurt the matter before the courts," he said.

* * *

W. V. Clutts, automobile repairman declared flatly, "If the evidence warranted the men should have been indicted," but he and Brett "doubt that there is enough evidence to convict the pair of murder."

* * *

Meanwhile, Defense Attorney C. Sidney Carlton expressed the general feeling of the Delta folks when he said,

"The people of this area regret that this awful thing happened. We don't condone such actions, but the people here are not convinced that the boys (Bryant and Milan) killed the boy."

Carlton said he would favor an immediate trial "to see that justice is done."

* * *

Buck Chamblin, pool room operator of Sumner, said, "I think the NAACP has commercialized on this case." But he said he feels "no resentment" toward the indictment against the pair.

* * *

Fred Cribbs, Sumner druggist, said, "The people here expected the indictment and they expect the jury to find the pair guilty when brought to trial."

Cribbs, added however, "They stand a better chance of finding them guilty of kidnapping than murder."

* * *

Virgil Adams editor of the Morning Star, said, "The majority of the people here want justice done. The relationship between the Negroes and the whites of LeFlore county is far above average."

Adams said three LeFlore county Negroes have been charged with rape in the last two years, one of them against a 12-year-old white girl, and none received the death sentence.

He said "no threat of violence occurred in any of the three cases.

Adams said "95 percent of the responsible business people of LeFlore county do not condone the mistreatment of Negroes.

"We do not favor persons taking the law into their own hands," he said. "The courts and law enforcement officers are set up to perform that function."

In Sumner the Elementary Parent-Teacher Association met on Tuesday afternoon "and not a word was spoken about the grand jury," one faithful mother said.

Defense Attorney Carlton said, "We expect a trial this term of court," but he declined to say how soon the case may be heard.

Howard Sees Light Sentence

Defender 1-3 Chicago Ill.
Sat. 9-17-55

MOUND BAYOU, Miss. — Dr. Theodore Roosevelt Mason Howard, probably Mississippi's most hated and feared Negro leader, boldly predicted last Tuesday that the two white men indicted for the murder of Emmett "Bo" Till if convicted will be meted nothing stiffer than a 10-year prison term.

This assumption, he said, is based on the long record of convictions involving Negroes and white in which whites have almost always escaped full punishment for crimes against Negroes.

In a telephone interview, Dr. Howard, president of the Regional Councils of Negro Leadership and eminent civil rights crusader said "I'll give anyone 50 to 1 odds that they will not get over 10 years in prison."

The accused murderers of 14-year-old "Bo" Till, Roy Bryant, 25, a grocer in Money, and J. W. Milam, 36, his half brother, were indicted Tuesday for the kidnap-murder.

Denying rumors of threats by Negroes to "storm the jail" and seize Bryant and Milam, Dr. Howard said that over last week end 15 motorists from Illinois were yanked out of their cars at red stop lights in Clarksdale and fined $18 apiece for reckless driving.

Meanwhile, Dr. Howard said that the body of another Negro was found last Friday, buried in a shallow grave in Washington County, near Hollandale, Miss.

Dr. Howard said this is not the body found last week which some officials are attempting to identify as that of Till's.

"Tension is very high here," Dr. Howard uttered. "They (the daily papers) can't write an article on Till's murder without mentioning the NAACP.

A Look At Life In Whistle-Stop Money







WAIST HIGH IN COTTON, Moses Wright (right photo at left) chats with one of hired hands, Jesse Taylor of Avalon, who picks 300 pounds a day. Despite threats against his life, Rev. Wright plans to remain in Money to harvest his cotton. He expects to clear himself about $1,000. In center photo is the Bryant grocery store in Money where Emmett Till is supposed to have whistled at a white woman. Three days after the alleged whistle Till was kidnapped and murdered. A disturbed sheriff (at right) is LeFlore county's George W. Smith, who after arresting Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam and holding without bond continues to receive "abusive letters" from "up north."

27a 1955 MISSISSIPPI

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Associated Press Wirephoto

PRINCIPALS IN MISSISSIPPI SLAYING TRIAL

L-R: J. W. Milam, Roy Bryant, Mrs. Roy Bryant



Associated Press Wirephoto

VICTIM'S MOTHER MAY TESTIFY AT TRIAL

L-R: Emmett Till, Mrs. Bradley, Judge Curtis Swango

Brothers on Trial Today In 'Wolf-Whistle' Slaying

Constitution 9/2

Atlanta Ga

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 18 (AP)—Two white half-brothers go on trial for their lives in the small courthouse of this delta cotton town tomorrow for the "wolf whistle" slaying of a stammering teen-age Chicago Negro.

Roy Bryant and J.W. Milam remained calm but grim in the jail at nearby Charleston on the eve of their trial for the murder of 14-year-old Emmett Till.

Till was abducted and slain after he allegedly insulted Bryant's pretty wife by whistling at her. Till was in Mississippi visiting an uncle near Greenwood. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has termed the [illegible] "lynching."

Mon 9-19-55

SPECIAL PROSECUTOR

"The people of Mississippi are anxious to see justice done in this case," said Gov. Hugh White, who appointed a special prosecutor, Robert B. Smith, of Ripley, to assist Dist. Atty. Gerald Chatham in presenting the case.

The governor's attitude of concern contrasted with that of some of the residents of Sumner, which has a population of less than 1,000. Many seemed not to welcome the unusual attention paid to their hometown.

"You're making a mountain out of a mole-hill," a man shouted at reporters arriving early to cover the trial. "The NAACP is really making you work."

KIDNAP CHARGES

Defense attorneys predicted the trial will last no longer than three days. Should Bryant and Milam be acquitted they would face immediate trial on kidnaping charges.

"We don't believe the state has a case," said C. Sidney Carlton, one of five defense attorneys in the case.

Till was taken from his bed early on the morning of Aug. 28 by Bryant and Milam. The two, who are half-brothers, told authorities they let the boy go when they found he wasn't the one who whistled at Mrs. Bryant.

BODY FOUND

Three days after Till was abducted, a fisherman found a body identified as that of the missing youth which has been bludgeoned and shot. The identification was made by Till's uncle, Moses Wright.

Sheriff H. C. Strider said he doubted the body was that of Till because it didn't look like pictures he had seen of the boy.

Two of Till's companions said the young Negro, a former polio victim who hardly could be understood because of a stammer, had whistled at Mrs. Bryant.

DEATH PENALTY

A conviction of murder in Mississippi calls for death in the gas chamber unless the jury recommends mercy, and a kidnaping conviction calls for a maximum of 10 years if the victim is more than 12 years old.

Officials were expecting the little court room to be overcrowded because of the 175 prospective jurors and swarms of reporters, photographers and spectators.

Till's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley of Chicago, was expected to be a prosecution witness. However, her attorney in Chicago said she would not attend the opening of the trial and that she would not leave Chicago until she is called as a witness.

Defense attorney Carlton said Bryant and Milam were in "very good spirits."

8871

8871

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE OFFICIAL TELLS NAACP GROUP FEDERAL GOVT. HAS NO JURISDICTION IN TILL KIDNAP MURDER CASE

Caution Seen In Committing Justice Dept. To Action On Violence And Intimidation Of Miss. Negro Voters

Say Disfranchisement Of Negro Voters In State Have Already Been Brought To The Attention Of Chairman Of The Democratic National Committee

Washington, D. C., Sept. 12—Assistant U. S. Attorney General William Clay Olney, III, in a conference with a group of NAACP officials here last Wednesday ruled out Federal jurisdiction in the kidnap-murder of Emmett Louis Till, 14-year-old Negro boy, kidnaped from the home of his uncle at Money, Miss.

After ruling out federal jurisdiction in the kidnap-murder case Mr. Olney said that other incidents which have occurred in Mississippi in recent months are under investigation.

In an hour and 40 minutes conference with the NAACP officials Mr. Olney was cautious in committing the Department of Justice to a course of action on violence and intimidation of Negro voters in Mississippi.

Until the department knows the facts and evidence may be, and whether there is a Federal law that applies to the facts, Mr. Olney said he can give no indication of what action will be taken.

9 Witnesses Called For Prosecution

SUMNER, Miss. — Mose Wright uncle of lynched Emmett Till, and his mother Mrs. Mamie Bradley, of Chicago will be among the prosecution's witnesses at the trial that opened here Monday.

On trial are J. W. Milam and Roy Bryant indicted for the murder of the Chicago youngster who was kidnapped and lynched as he allegedly wolf whistled at Bryant's wife.

Other witnesses who have been summoned to testify for the state are: Sheriff George Smith, of Leflore county; Deputy Sheriff L. Cothran, of Leflore county; Sheriff H. C. Strider of Tallahatchie county; Simeon Wright, nephew of Till; Dr. T. B. Otkin a medical specialist of Greenwood, Miss.; Mayor Chick Nelson of Tutwiller, Miss. and Garland Melton deputy sheriff of Sumner.

Chief defense attorney J. J. Breland, refused to disclose who would be summoned to testify for the defense.

Don't Want Mess Here, They Say

By L. ALEX WILSON

SUMNER, Miss.—This quiet little cotton Delta town, population 527, with approximately 50 percent Negroes, was not tense on the eve of the Emmett L. Till trial, but quite widespread was a deep feeling of resentment.

The resentment was over the "dumping of the trial on our town when we had nothing to do with the heinous crime."

This writer talked with several white citizens and in each instance found evidence of cordiality and either mute resentment over the trial site, dictated by law, or unrestrained vocal expression about it.

RESENT OUTSIDERS

W. W. Simpson, editor of the Sumner Sential said "There are two things we don't like about the case. The outside interference and the fact that the trial, though required by law, will be held here."

"You have been given friendly treatment since you've been here haven't you?" he asked. I admitted I had.

He pointed out that the two races had been getting along together in Sumner.

Roy Moyer, owner of a dry goods store on the main street described the slaying of Till as "heinous and unnecessary."

But, he made it quite clear he didn't like the manner in which the nation's press by large had handled the Till case, nor the interference from "rab b le-rousing groups."

He charged that similar crimes occur in large cities of the North.

"Mississippi is a sovereign state and has shown that it will handle this case. We don't like meddling from outsiders."

HATE NOTORIETY

One youthful white man said briefly: "We don't like notoriety being brought to our town by this trial."

Al Thomas, a deputy sheriff was cordial but made no comment on the trial.

Circuit Court Clerk, Mrs. Rogers, gave assistance in getting facts from the records. However, there appeared some distaste for the trial in the courthouse.

Mrs. Nellie J. Mabrey, well known and well-liked Negro home demonstration agent in Tallahatchie county with headquarters in Charleston, Miss. (northern part of the county) stated that she had not detected any tension over the trial. Mrs. Mabrey had been working in the county for 18 years.

Each year she stages a huge 4-H Day rally which is loyally supported and endorsed by white and colored. Mrs. Mabrey has one daughter, Mrs. Valda L. Pandy, an optometrist, who resides in Chicago at 3745 South Parkway.

Unless there is an unusual development in Sumner, visitors here for the trial will find the residents cordial and some friendly.

SHOCKED

Mississippi murder upsets bar group

WASHINGTON

The kidnap slaying of 14-year-old Emmett Louis Till in Mississippi was "deplored" last week by the delegates to the 30th annual convention National Bar Association.

"A resolution condemning "un-American action on the part of individuals" in Mississippi was one of 13 passed by the delegates in the final session of their three-day meeting held at the Willard Hotel.

The bar association resolution said it "was encouraged by the request for an investigation into the kidnap slaying of young Till by the governor of Mississippi and trusts the state's chief executive will throw the full weight of his office behind prosecution of the responsible parties.

* * *

"IT IS hoped that a conviction will serve notice to the world that Mississippi will recognize the basic right of man to live and that she will punish those individuals who would deprive man of life and liberty without due process of law," the resolution continued.

A resolution dealing with desegregation stated that the bar association "denounces the open aspersion and acts of contempt cast upon the decrees of the U.S Supreme Court in its decisions abrogating segregation and discrimination in public education and other areas of citizenship activity.

"THE EXPRESSED intentions of certain groups to circumvent, thwart and disobey the mandate of implementation, not only are disgraceful, un-American and contemptuous, but a dire threat to the free world," the resolution stated.

The bench and bar were urged to uphold the "dignity and worth of our courts."

The President was urged to "use all means at his disposal to integrate the segregated police boys clubs in the District" and was asked to direct full compliance with his directive ordering elimination of segregation on military posts," in another resolution.

THE BODY resolved to "throw the entire strength of the organization" behind the NAACP and other groups in the fight for full implementation of the Supreme Court decision on desegregation.

It was resolved that the purpose of the security program of the U.S. was good, but it "has been found lacking in many essential elements of justice, and on too many occasions injustice has occurred," therefore a restudy of the security program was urged.

* * *

THE BAR association adopted a resolution calling for the appointment of a standing committee to study, report and make recommendations from time to time on African affairs so "that convention and all of its functions in this city in an atmosphere this association can take a positive stand with respect to all of human dignity, cordimeasures" involving the peoples ality, brotherliness and goodwill."

A resolution which expressed Resolutions were also adopted sincere appreciation to President Eisenhower and Attorney tims in the recent floods, the General Herbert Brownell for establishment of a public relathe "measures which have been tions committee, and expression taken or enforced in Washington, of "grateful appreciation" to the D.C., which have contributed to Washington Bar Association

Thousands Pass Bier Of Slain Negro Boy

Post-Herald
Sun. 9-4-55

CHICAGO, Sept. 3 (AP)—Services for a 14-year-old Negro boy, slain while vacationing in Mississippi, drew thousands of Negroes today to a South Side church where the battered body was placed on view.

Mourners and curious filled the 1700-persno capacity of Roberts' Temple Church of God, where the body of Emmett Louis Till was taken this morning from an undertaking chapel. Outside the church, an estimated 10,000 persons stood in long lines waiting to view the body.

Till's body, shot in the head and badly beaten, was fished out of a river near Money, Miss., Wednesday, three days after he reportedly whistled at a white woman in a store. Two white men have been charged with his murder.

Viewers filing past the youth's casket looked down on the disfigured face which a Mississippi sheriff said earlier appeared to have been struck with an ax because "it went too deep to be anything else."

The casket was opened to public view at the insistence of the boy's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley, 33, against the advice of the undertakers. Mrs. Bradley said she wanted others "to see what they did to my boy."

Burial services, originally scheduled for today, were postponed at a late hour until Tuesday.

The Rev. Isaiah Roberts, pastor of the church, said Mrs. Bradley had requested the postponement. He said the body will remain on view Sunday and Monday.

About 30 policemen kept the crowd in lines as the curious made their way into the church for a glimpse of the body. Several women fainted in the crush.

As the lines moved past the casket, a minister in the pulpit urged the viewers to contribute to a fund set up by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Two men sitting at a table near the casket collected the contributions.

Accused Pair Denies Guilt

Advertiser
Montgomery
9-7-55
New Orleans
Wed. 9-7-55
Ala.
P. 1

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 6 (AP)—Two white men pleaded innocent today when arraigned on indictments charging them with kidnaping and murdering a 14-year-old Negro boy from Chicago who allegedly whistled at a white woman.

Roy Bryant, 24, and J. W. Milam, 35, his half-brother, denied they killed Emmett Louis Till.

Circuit Judge Curtis Swango Jr. said he will set the trial date Thursday morning.

Sheriff H. C. Strider said, "We expect to try them in this term of court." The three-week term began yesterday.

The men did not ask for bond because of the nearness of the trial and were taken to the Tallahatchie County Jail in nearby Charleston.

The Tallahatchie County grand jury, composed of white men, indicted the men on kidnaping and murder charges earlier today.

Murder carries a maximum sentence of death, with a minimum of life in prison. The kidnapping statute under which they were indicted provides a maximum 10-year prison term.

Till's body, a bullet in his head and a 100-pound cotton gin fan tied to his neck to weight him down, was pulled from the Tallahatchie River Wednesday.

The boy was kidnaped three days earlier from his uncle's home where he was spending a planned two-week vacation that ended in death after one week.

Young Till allegedly whistled or made "ugly remarks" to Mrs. Bryant, wife of the Money storekeeper.

BODY OF CHICAGO YOUTH IS VIEWED

Times Picayune
Mourners, Curious Crowd Past Boy's Casket
Sun. 9-4-55

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P. 1 & 16

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New Orleans
Sun. 9-4-55
P. 1

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As the lines moved past the casket, a Negro minister in the pulpit urged the viewers to contribute to a fund set up by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Two men sitting at a table near the casket collected the contributions.

The Rev. Cornelius Adams of the Greater Harvest Baptist church told the crowd the funds would be used "so that this will not happen again."

Times Picayune

"Pamphlets were passed out in front of the funeral parlor Friday night telling us what to do," Adams said. "These pamphlets were passed out by Communists."

P. 3

He added:

"Pay them no heed," he added. "We don't need Communists."

Friday night a crowd estimated at from 15,000 to 50,000 filed past the casket in a South Side undertaking chapel between 8 p. m. and 2 a. m. (EST). The undertaker, A. A. Rayner, made the 50,000 estimate. Police made the lower estimate.

Police said the crowd was orderly although a front window of the chapel was accidentally pushed in as the throng surged forward.

Sheriff Says Body May Not Be Till's

CHARLESTON, Miss., Sept. 3 (AP)—The sheriff said Saturday he didn't think the body pulled from a river near here was that of Emmett Till, 14-year-old Chicago Negro.

Tallahatchie county Sheriff H. C. Strider said "the whole thing looks like a real made up by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People."

Strider, in charge of the investigation, said "the body we took from the river looked more like that of a grown man instead of a young boy. It was also more decomposed than it should have been after the short stay in the water.

"Even the boy's uncle wasn't sure the body was that of Emmett Till."

Comment from other officials in the case was not immediately available.

Till was taken from the home of his uncle, Mose Wrigt, near Greenwood Sunday by two white men after he allegedly wolf-whistled at a pretty white woman.

A body, identified as Till's, was removed from the Tallahatchie river Wednesday.

Two white men have been jailed on charges of kidnaping. They are Roy Bryant and J. W. Milan.

had come from Chicago to visit the family, was alleged to have whistled to a white woman.

Roy Bryant, 24, and J. W. Milam, 35, were acquitted on murder charges recently in the death of Till. They still face kidnaping charges.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Mamie Bradley, the mother of young Till, accused the prosecution of "bungling its job" at the murder trial. Mrs. Bradley, 33, issued her statement from Provident Hospital where she has been ordered to rest.

Wright, who is staying in Chicago with a daughter, said he heard from a friend that two white men got out a car at night and checked around his place with flashlights after the trial. He added:

Atlanta Ga.

"After I heard about this, I got more determined to leave. I was afraid. I've been afraid ever since they took the boy (Till) away."

Till's mother claimed the prosecutor "did not visit the places which testimony brought out at the trial were the scenes of the crime." She added: "He did not look over the truck on which my son, Emmett, was supposed to have been seen riding with white men and did not follow up many leads."

Till's Uncle Tells Why He Fled Miss.

Daily World
Sat. 10-8-55
P. 2

CHICAGO—(INS) Moses Wright, chief state witness in the Mississippi murder trial of two white men accused in the death of a Negro youth, said Tuesday he fled the state in fear after the trial.

The 65-year-old farmer told reporters of the Chicago American he was afraid and "I thought I better get out of here (Mississippi) or I'll be hurt."

Wright testified at the trial about the kidnaping of his nephew Emmett Louis Till, from the Wright home near Money, Miss. Till, who

27a 1955 MISSISSIPPI

8882

Can A Threat Empty This House?



AFTER ALMOST a decade, name on mailbox (insert right) will soon be coming down. Mose Wright has decided he will find some place outside Mississippi to make his home. He and his family have been threatened with death unless they move. Peaceful life in this tree shaded home was shattered Aug. 28 when two armed white men entered and kidnapped Emmett Till. House is used now for cooking and eating — but n[illegible] sleeping. Till case carrying pictures of the two men who were indicted on Tuesday.

The eyes of one had been gouged out, the other burned out.

THREAT FROM CHICAGO

When he finished reading the threat, one of many he says have been received from Chicago, Sheriff Smith asked:

"How would you like to be a sheriff, trying your darndest to do your job the best you can and have someone send you some of these?"

Then he said, "these type of things are not helping the situation any at all."

Sheriff Smith apparently was somewhat disturbed.

Here was a sheriff in Mississippi's Delta who had moved without delay to arrest two white men accused of kidnapping a Negro boy they claimed whistled at one of their wives.

He held they without bond, making it known they would have to go through court procedure to obtain bond.

Later, when Tallahatchie county officials began "doubting" that the body found was that of Till's, Sheriff Smith and his staff stood pat.

They had no doubts the body was that of the Chicago youth.

NO MORE AUTHORITY

He said his office did everything it could and that now "it's Tallahatchie county's baby, where we have no authority at all."

All Greenwood, Negro and white, go down the line in praising Sheriff Smith and his staff for their handling of the LeFlore county end of the case, including the local NAACP.

So, when such letters flow in they leave Sheriff Smith — a Mississippi lawman who says he has friends who are NAACP members —baffled, dejected and angry.



SIMEON WRIGHT, 12, was in the bed with Emmett Till when the men came in and ordered the Chicago youth out. Simeon gets dipper of water after breakfast before going out into cotton field.

New Threats Irk Sheriff In Money

By Defender Publications Writer

LeFlore county Sheriff George W. Smith thrust the marred clipping, away and then as if on second thought, pulled it back, deciding to read through the gruesome thing.

He read it slowly, his voice sounding the words. The tone of his voice did the reading and it sounded mixed by thirds with equal takings of bafflement, dejection and anger.

Gist of the message scribbled on the newspaper clipping was:—Unless you give some action, this will happen to you.

The "THIS" pointed to was the condition of the faces in the clipping.

There appeared a story on the

Hicks Says Key Witnesses In Jail During Till Case Hearing

World

June 16-A-55

By JAMES L. HICKS

NEW YORK, N. Y.—Here for the first time is the true story of what happened in the hectic five day trial of white men in Sumner, Mississippi, for the murder of 14 year old Emmett Till of Chicago.

This story has never been written before. I did not write it while in Mississippi for fear of bodily harm to myself and to my colleagues. No one else has written it because no one else in the capacity of a reporter lived as close to it as I did.

Birmingham

Looking back on it now, I am ashamed that I did not throw caution to the winds and at least try to get out the story exactly as it was unfolding to me. I had tried ced, however, that if I had tried this, I would not be here in New York to write this.

I should like also to add that not once in the stories that I did file from Sumner did I tell a lie. The offense, if I committed one, lies in the fact that the stories that I did file did not dig or go far enough into the truth. It just wasn't safe to do so.

Here in the sefety of New York I now charge, (as I would have charged in Sumner, Mississippi) that:

1. Sheriff H. C. Strider frustrated the ends of justice by refusing to take an impartial person to the Charleston jail at Charleston, Miss., and permit him to check on his report that Leroy "Too Tight" Collins was not in the Charleston jail.

2. I further charge, (and with with the protection of proper law officials will go back to Mississippi and help prove) that Leroy Collins was in the Charleston jail on Friday at the very hour that the case went to the jury.

3. I charge further that Prosecutors Gerald Chatham and Robert B. Smith were told about this but that they decided that since the sheriff had given them his word that Collins was not in the jail, they proceeded to close out the trial without this man whom everyone believes could have positively hung the crime on the two white men and seriously implicated at least one other white man.

4. I finally charge that if Leroy Collins is brought forward at this date and given an opportunity to talk where he is assured that he is not in any danger, he will be able to tell where Henry Lee Loggins is and that the two of them will prove to be the two colored men who were seen on the truck the night of the murder by Moses Wright and Willie Reed.

I believe that Henry Lee Loggins is dead and that he was disposed of because he knew too much about the case.

These are serious charges. But I welcome this opportunity to write down the evidence on which they are based.

This is the fantastic story as lived by this reporter:

On the Sunday before the opening of the trial I attended the funeral of "Kid Townsend, a well-liked colored man who had lived in Sumner virtually all his life.

I had been told that a number of white people would attend the funeral and I felt that it would provide at least a good pretrial story.

I drove into the churchyard, got out my notebook in my hand and went into the church passing a number of colored people standing in the churchyard.

Inside I found the church crowded with no seats and that white people were occupying the two back rows on the left side of the church.

The temperature was about 95 degrees and I decided to stand outside the church and listen to the services after I had been in the church about a half hour. This was easy to do because the church was the typical whitewashed wooden structure and the minister who preached was shouting loud enough to be heard from outside.

White

My notes, which I shall constantly refer to in this article, show that the preacher's name was the Rev. W. M. King, that there were 175 colored people in the church, and 12 whites including five women, four men and three white children.

My notes also show that I recorded the sermon as being from "Fourth Chapter, Second Timonthy" and beneath I have a quotation read by the minister which said, "I have fought the fight, I have kept the faith, I have finished my course."

P6

I was leaning there against the fender of a parked car when a voice behind me said, "Are you down here for the trial?"

Up to this point I did not know a single colored person in Sumner and I had tried in the two days I'd been there from spreading the word around that I was a reporter.

But as I turned to face the voice I decided that it would get out anyway so I turned to the man who had addressed me and said, "Yes, I'm down on the trial. I'm a reporter."

The man wos colored and he said to me. "There's a lady behind this car who would like to talk with you. I think you'd be interested in what she has to say."

I turned and looked but saw no one. At that moment the man said, "Go behind the car, but don't take out your notebook and write down nothing."

Now at this point I should like to say to the reader, if this whole thing starts off reading like a cheap and fantastic Hollywood movie script, that is exactly what it is going to read like for the entire five days.

But I can also say that every word of it is true and it is written exactly the way I lived it.

I went back of that car and found a woman whom I shall not describe for she told me in the beginning that she was actually endangering her life by talking to me about the trial.

The woman then told me that a boy named "Too Tight" was on the truck the night of the murder and that he had suddenly disappeared and no one knew where he was. She said she did not know "Too Tight's" real name but that she thought she could send me to a place to get all the information I wanted on him "if you aren't afraid to go."

..I told her I was not afraid. Then standing and looking off in another direction she said to me. Go to Glendora. That's about seven miles south of here. Be careful and don't let the people know what you are looking for. Don't talk to any white people. Go to a place called King's. It's the only colored dance hall in town. Hang around there and find the right people. They will tell you "Too Tight's" name and what happened to him. But don't, she said, "get caught down there after dark."

..Then she walked away from the car .. ..

..As she walked away from the car, the man who had first contacted me came around to where I was standing and I began to ask him more about Glendora. He had just told me that it was one of the roughest towns on colored people in the county when suddenly a car dashed up in front of the church and a white man, J. W. Simpson, editor of the Sumner Sentinel got out.

..Then came one of those odd incidents which I have never been able to put together. Simpson who had been friendly to me on my first arrival in town on Thursday, appeared excited.

..He left his car, rushed over to where I was standing with the man and pointing his finger at me he said, "You're Hicks aren't you?"..

..I was surprised that he would ask such a question for we had had a long conversation the day before but I said, "Thats right—I'm Hicks."

..Then to my surprise he turned on his heels, jumped into his car and drove off down the road ....

..The colored man to whom I was talking said, "Something's up. That man wanted to say something to you, but he changed his mi[illegible] don't know whether it [illegible] I was here or not."

..At this point I [illegible]rt that though I saw Mr [illegible] many times after that, he nev[illegible] said anything about his strange [illegible]ction that Sunday ....

..The incident unnerved the man to whom I was talking and he said, "I'm leaving. If you go to Glendora, good luck. But don't get caught down there after dark."

..As he walked away I looked at my watch. It was three o'clock. I reasoned that with any good luck I could drive down there in 20 minutes and spend an hour or so in town and still make it back to my hotel in Mound Bayou by dark ..

..So I got into the car and headed immediately for Glendora ....

..The tavern called King's was not easy to find. I just looked for a large group of colored people on a back street and there was King's.

..It was a typical hangout in a typical Mississippi town. The place was filthy and the cotton pickers who were enjoying their Sunday day off crowded it to the doors.

..At one end of the long hall was what served as a kitchen. Somewhere with the bowels of the place a juke box was giving out with Rock and Roll blues and in the center of the floor couples were dancing attired in all kinds of clothing. Some of the women up to 25 years old were dancing barefooted.

..I stood a long time trying to 'case' the place. I had not had a meal since my Mound Bayou breakfast that morning at seven and I was hungry. But I realized that I only had about a good hour to work in before dark and I wanted to get most out of my time by circulating through the crowd instead of tying myself to an eating table.

..So I elected to spend my hour or so drinking beer and dancing to see what I could find. I walked over to the kitchen and foolishly asked for 'a menu' ....

That was a dead giveaway for a stranger and I realize it now. But at the time the words seemed to slip out of my mouth. It seemed that at the time I felt that if I had some reading matter in my hand I could stall a little bit until I made up my mind as to what approach to make.

..When I asked for a menu of a girl waitress, a man behind the counter spoke up and said, "We don't have any menu. But we can fix you most anything you want'"

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Death Penalty Not Asked

Mississippi Slaying Trial Opens

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 19 (AP)—Two white men went on trial today for the murder of a teen-age Negro boy from Chicago. At the end of the court day, 10 prospective jurors had been tentatively seated.

The defendants—Roy Bryant, 24, and his half-brother, J. W. Milam, 36, went on trial with their two-year-old boys on their laps. Flanking each defendant a few feet from the judge's bench in the steamy Mississippi courtroom was a slightly older set.

Children In Court.

The little boys' thin wails or alternately their childish laughter cut across the routine hum of court proceedings in the most sensational murder trial the Mississippi Delta has seen in years.

The state questioned prospective jurors first and after running through about half of the panel of 106 prospects announced that it was satisfied with the 12 men then seated. In turn the defense excused two of those 12 and court was adjourned until 9 a.m.

Bryant and Milam, were accused of the kidnap slaying of Emmett (Bo Bo) Till, 14. He was vacationing in Mississippi last month and was slain after he allegedly made offensive remarks and wolf-whistled at Bryant's attractive wife Carolyn, 21.

Both defendants have pleaded innocent.

Both Mrs. Bryant and Juanita Milam, 27, were in court with their husbands and the youngsters.

The state made use of 11 of 12 peremptory challenges which it was allowed—A challenge with which it may eliminate a juror without giving a reason.

Questioning Begins.

Once the state had accepted the panel, the defense then began its questioning of the 12 prospects. Like the state, the defense had the right to exercise any or all of the 12 peremptory challenges allotted to it.

As the state and the defense went to work picking an all-white, all-male jury for the murder trial. Dist. Atty. Gerald Chatham emphasized he is not asking for the death penalty.

Said the prosecutor: "The state will not ask for the infliction of the death penalty since a substantial part of the state's evidence is circumstantial evidence."

Bryant, a handsome bushy-haired man, and Milam, taller, stockier and nearly bald, sat out tedious trial preliminaries across the street from the 45-year-old gray brick courthouse. They were in the custody of their lawyers and not guarded.

With Children.

When Circuit Judge Curtis Swango Jr., banged the gavel for the formal beginning of jury picking, Bryant and Milam walked into the courtroom. Each carried his 2-year-old son and each had an older boy by the hand. Bryant's older boy is 3, Milam's 4.

Mississippians said it is not unusual for a defendant to bring in a small child. In many parts of the country it is unprecedented.

The two sets of little boys, each one a handsome little tyke, listened attentively at first to court routine. Eventually they grew restless, gurgling, laughing and occasionally crying. Bryant gave his younger boy candy mints to quiet him. Milam tried the same with chewing gum.

When he was kidnaped last Aug. 28, young Till was staying with his great-uncle, 64-year-old Mose Wright, a Negro sharecropper in Money, Miss., about 30 miles from here.

Wright claims three white men pounded on his door and, over his protests, took away "the boy from Chicago who did the talk at Money."

Star Witness.

Wright is scheduled as the state's star witness against the two defendants. He claims he can identify one of them as a member of the kidnap group. There are only two defendants and his story of a third man has never been explained.

Young Till reportedly went into the white-and-green-fronted Bryant grocery less than three miles from Wright's cotton field shack and insulted Mrs. Bryant. He climaxed his visit with a wolf-whistle at the slender, attractive brunette.

Three days later on Aug. 31, a body identified by the state as Till's was taken out of the Tallahatchie river three miles from Money. The head was beaten and bore a bullet wound. The body was weighted down by a 100-pound cotton gin exhaust fan.

The defense has said it will make the state prove the body was Till's. It reportedly was decomposeed.

Rarely, if ever, has a white man been executed in a Mississippi case involving a Negro slaying. And Chatham made it plain he is not asking the cotton farmers who make up the bulk of any jury here to shatter precedent.

As Chatham explained it, there are four possible verdicts:

If the defendants are found guilty as charged, it becomes mandatory on the court to send them to the Mississippi gas chamber. Chatham is not asking such a verdict.

If the jury finds them guilty but disagrees as to the punishment, life imprisonment is the legal penalty.

Or the jury can find the pair guilty and specify in its verdict that the penalty shall be life.

Or, the jury can acquit the men.

Lawyers on both sides do not expect the trial to run beyond Wednesday.

The temperature mounted into the high 80s today as the mist lifted from the cotton fields and court got under way.

Judge Swango, a dapper medium-sized man, who resembles the late Mayor Jimmy Walker of New York, brought the court to order shortly after 9 a.m.

A jury panel of 106 men, all in shirtsleeves, waited the call of the attorneys who selected 12 regular jurors and one alternate. Women are excluded from Mississipp juries. Negroes are eligible but all the prospective jurors in this case were white.

Judge Swango outlined the courtroom rules in a soft, firm voice. Smoking was permitted, a rarity in most courtrooms. He urged out-of-town reporters to remove their jackets for comfort although he kept his own on.

Trial Opens Monday in Boy Slaying

By BAKER MARSH
Miami Herald-Chicago Daily News Wire

SUMNER, Miss. — This quiet little Southern town meanders into the national spotlight Monday when two White men go on trial charged with the kidnaping and murder of a 14-year-old Chicago Negro.

Sumner sits on the banks of Cassidy bayou, one of those slow streams that wind through the heart of Mississippi's rich cotton-growing country. The town also boasts a branch of the Illinois Central Railroad, known locally as "The Dog."

Sumner's population of approximately 600 is made up mostly of cotton planters, storekeepers and lawyers. The latter are here because Sumner is one of two county seats of Tallahatchie county.

The two seats are a hangover from the days when travel was difficult.

The roads are paved now but things don't change too fast in this part of the South.

The trial will get under way Monday morning before Circuit Judge Curtis M. Swango, 48, who has been on the bench four years. He's a traveling judge, going from county seat to county seat of his judicial district.

The prosecutor, Gerald Chatham, 48, is another traveler, He's district attorney for five counties and has been on the job 14 years.

The chief defense lawyer, Jesse Josiah (Si) Breland, is sedentary by comparison. He's been practicing law here for 40 of his 65 years.

Breland has four other lawyers, all from Sumner, working with him on the defense.

The three other major figures in the case are the dead boy, Emmett, Louis Till and Roy Bryant, 24, and his half brother, John W. Milam, 36, accused in the Till boy's death.

Bryant and Milam are held in the jail in Charleston, the other county seat, because the Sumner jail is inadequate.

Bryant's young wife and two small sons are staying with her mother near Glendora, a neighboring town.

Both Chatham and Breland say interest in the case has died down and they expect no demonstrations or disturbances when the trial begins.

Chatham has invited Mrs. Mamale Bradley, mother of Emmett Till, to attend the trial but says she has not answered his message.

If she does attend, and wants protection, he says he presumes the governor will provide her a state police escort.

Bryant and Milam have admitted taking the boy from his uncle's home early Sunday, Aug. 28, after the boy allegedly "wolf-whistled" at Bryant's wife.

But they say they released the boy in Money, Miss., near his uncle's home in Leflore county. The body was found in adjoining Tallahatchie county. It has never been definitely established where the boy was killed.



—International News Photo

PREPARING FOR TRIAL IN SLAYING OF BOY

J. W. Milam, left, and Roy Bryant, right, confer with Attorney Sidney Carlton



SEARCH FOR WEAPONS—Chief Deputy Sheriff Ben Selby (right) searches a news reporter before allowing him to enter the courtroom at Sumner, Miss., for the opening of the trial of two men accused in the slaying of a Chicago Negro boy. All persons not known to the police were searched on entering the courtroom. (AP Wirephoto.)

Editor of Chicago Negro paper denies Till witnesses held captive by NAACP

JACKSON, Miss., Oct. 6—(AP)—The executive editor of a Chicago Negro newspaper tabs as "complete fabrication" a statement that the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People is holding captive three Negro witnesses in the Till kidnap-murder case.

The editor, Enoch Waters of The Chicago Defender, said last night the three Negroes listed by The Jackson Daily News as NAACP prisoners have relatives in Chicago and went there of their own volition.

"Chicago is a natural point to gravitate to when people get into trouble in Mississippi," Waters, a former NAACP board member, said.

The Jackson Daily News made the accusation yesterday in a copyrighted story by staffer Bill Spell, who went to Chicago to question the three Negro witnesses.

Spell said the three held captive are Mrs. Mandy Bradley, Mose Wright and Willie Reed. He said the NAACP refused to permit them to talk to a reporterr unless an NAACP representative was present.

A JURY acquitted two white men, Roy Bryant, 24, and his half brother, John W. Milam, 36, of killing Emmett Louis Till, 14, of Chicago. Bryant and Milam, charged in Leflore County with kidnaping Till, are free on $10,000 bond each pending action by the Grand Jury next month.

At the murder trial in Sumner, Miss., nearly two weeks ago, Mrs. Bradley and Reed testified they saw Till in the hands of kidnapers near a barn in Mississippi's agricultural delta. Wright, the boy's uncle, testified two white men took young Till from his home near Money, Miss.

Mrs. Bradley, Wright and Reed, allegedly fearing reprisals, left Mississippi after the murder trial, which attracted national attention.

The Daily News sent Spell to Chicago to ask the three why they left Mississippi and if they had been threatened.

Spell said he found Reed in a hospital with a police guard. The Negro was being treated for shock and nervousness.

SPELL QUOTED REED as saying he had not been threatened in Mississippi. But, Spell said the Negro told him, he feared Bryant and Milam because "they looked at me hard after the trial."

Reed said he preferred to remain in Chicago.

Spell said he next went to see Mrs. Bradley—no relation to Till's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley. He said she told him she had not been threatened, but had heard her husband, who remained in Mississippi, had been "beaten by a bunch of white men."

At this point, Spell said, Till's grandmother entered the room and told Mrs. Bradley not to answer any more questions unless an NAACP representative was present.

In Chicago last night, Mrs. Bradley wouldn't talk with a reporter. A man who said he was "just a friend" referred all questions to William H. Huff, NAACP attorney.

AT HUFF'S residence, a woman answered the telephone and said the attorney had gone to bed for the night. She refused to arouse him.

Reed and Wright could not be reached for comment.

The Sunflower County sheriff's office said it had not received any report of the alleged beating of Mrs. Bradley's husband.

Spell said he couldn't get to see Wright. He said an NAACP "middle man" offered to take questions to Wright and return with his answers. Spell said he refused the offer.

In Chicago yesterday, an alderman proposed that the city council approve naming a city park after Till to demonstrate that the "cruel murder was not condoned."

The alderman, Leon Despres, is white. He represents Chicago's heavily Negro populated 5th Ward. His resolution was referred to a committee.

The resolution said:

"Till died a victim of a vicious system of repressing people of color."

PRE-TRIAL reports of the incident from officers and private citizens said Till wolf-whistled at Bryant's wife at the Bryant country store near Money, Miss. Mrs. Bryant testified a Negro grabbed her and made obscene remarks. He later wolf-whistled at her, she said.

The jury did not hear Mrs. Bryant's testimony. Mrs. Bryant never identified the Negro man as Till.

Wright said the two men who took Till from his house were Bryant and Milam. But the defense attacked his identification on the basis of available light, a flashlight pointed at Wright in the hand of one man.

Reed told the court he saw Till, four white men and two Negroes drive up to a plantation barn near his home in Sunflower County, adjoining the kidnap and murder area. He said Milam was one of the white men.

The defense attorney attacked Reed's testimony because he said he was 400 yards away.

Mrs. Mandy Bradley said she saw a man resembling Milam around the barn.

J. A. Shaw, foreman of the jury of farmers and carpenters, said the question of whether the body pulled from the Tallahatchie County river was Till's was the reason for the verdict. He said jurors were not convinced that it was.

The body was found in the river three days after the kidnaping. Till's mother and Wright said it was the boy's body.

Some state witnesses said the body had been in the water at least eight days.

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50,000 View Body Of 14-Year-Old Boy Found Slain In Mississippi

World
Sun. 9-6-55

CHICAGO — (INS) — More than 10,000 persons crowded streets near the Church of God in Christ on the South side of Chicago Saturday to attend funeral services for 14-year-old Emmitt Louis Till who was slain in Mississippi early last week.

Services at the church at 4021 S. State St.) were carried by loud speakers to the huge group of mourners standing in the street. The church, which seats 1,800, was filled to capacity.

Many clergymen and leaders spoke at the services for the boy, including Archibald Carey, a minister and former Chicago alderman, who said:

"It is not for us to avenge. A mob in Chicago is no better than a mob in Mississippi."

DUMPED IN RIVER

The youth, son of Mrs. Mamie L. Bradley, 33 (of 6427 S. St. Lawrence Ave.) was beaten and shot to death and his body dumped in a river near Greenwood, Miss., while he was visiting an uncle, Moses Wright, a tenant farmer at Money, Miss.

Police arrested two men who admitted taking the boy from Wright's home after accusing the boy of "wolf-whistling" at a white woman. The two, Roy Bryant, 25 a grocer in Money, Miss., and his half brother, J. W. Milam, 40, are held for grand jury action.

50,000 VIEW BODY

Since the boy's body was returned to Chicago, an estimated 50,000 persons had viewed the body after his grief stricken mother insisted that the pine box be opened to "let the people see what happened to my boy."

Relatives said Till's teeth were knocked out and the right side of his face caved in. There was a small bullet hole in his temple.

Bishop Louis H. Ford told mourners:

"Our country is spending millions trying to win the good will of colored people in Africa and India. Our president and vice president (Richard) Nixon and Secretary of State (John Foster) Dulles ought to be seeking the good will of colored people in Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia."

Arrest Three White Men In Connection With The Slaying

Jackson, Miss. Aug. 17 (DSN)—The National spotlight will definitely be turned on Mississippi next Tuesday, August 22nd when the voters of the state go to the polls in the run-off election to vote for candidates for governor and numerous lesser officials following the slaying of a widely known Negro leader in Brookhaven, in Lincoln County last Saturday.

The victim, Lamar D. Smith, who is widely known in state Elks and Masonic circles, and a moderately successful farmer and businessman was shot to death on the Court House Lawn following what is reported to have been an argument with a group of white men arising out of his activities in connection with Negro voting in Brookhaven and Lincoln County in the August 2nd Democrat primary.

Although its president, Robert Patterson has publicly denied that the organization is opposed to Negro voting the slaying is generally regarded as resulting from sentiment created against Negro leaders in the state by the White Citizens Councils organized to prevent of absentee ballots cast in the August 2nd voting, a fact which caused the District Attorney to refer to the election as a "rotten mess."

By Tuesday night, three white men had been arrested in connection with the slaying. They are Noah Smith, Mack Smith, and Charles Falvey, all reported to be Lincoln County farmers. Noah Smith was arrested Sunday following the slaying. The two others were arrested following the meeting of a Coroner's Jury Tuesday afternoon.

The Coroner's Jury returned a verdict that Smith met his death from gunshot wounds in an altercation with Mack Smith, Noah Smith, Charles Falvey, and perhaps other unknown persons.

The preliminary hearing set for Tuesday was postponed.

Atlanta
8-22-55

serve racial segregation in the state at all cost.

Brookhaven is also the home of Judge Brady author of the now famous book "Black Monday," attacking the United States Supreme Court for its decision outlawing segregation in the nations public schools.

According to well informed observers the slaying of Smith is certain to cause a further drop in Negro voting in the election run-off next Tuesday. Not more than 40 percent of the state's qualified Negro voters numbering some 25,000 are estimated to have voted in the August 2nd Primary.

The slaying of Smith was not without repercussions in Brookhaven, but a proposed mass meeting set for Tuesday night for the prime purpose of asking the governor to send troops to supervise the voting next Tuesday did not materialize.

The argument which led to the slaying of Smith, according to reports arose out of the large num-

identified by Till's mother as that of her son.

World

When the body was returned to Chicago, thousands filed past the coffin which the mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley, instructed to be kept open so "all may see what they did to my boy."

P 8

She became hysterical at the funeral Tuesday. Two hundred persons packed the Roberts Temple, Church of God in Christ, while 1,000 others milled outside.

NEGLIGENCE ACCUSED

At Sumner, Sheriff Strider said he has received letters accusing him of "not doing my duty."

"We have been able to produce enough evidence of kidnaping and murder to secure return of an indictment. We have 18 of as qualified and competent jurors as can be found anywhere.

"We intend to try this case and these men according to law the case, as well as all others, will receive due consideration regardless of race, color or creed."

Young Till's 64-year-old uncle said Bryant and Milam seized the Chicago boy, accusing him of whistling and "talking ugly" to Bryant's wife earlier that day in the man's

While funeral services we[illegible] in Chicago for 14-year-old E[illegible]tt Louis Till, a Tallahatchie County Grand Jury in Sumner, Miss., returned joint indictments against Roy Bryant, 24, and his half-brother J. W. Milam, 36.

District Attorney Gerald Chatham of Hernando, Miss., said the pair would be arraigned later.

LYNCHING CHARGED

The sensational case has stirred nationwide attention. Charges of "lynching" were hurled by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. But

Gov. Hugh White of Mississippi declared:

Birmingham
8-28-55

"Mississippi does not condone such conduct on the part of any of its citizens. It was not a lynching—it was straight murder."

Thirty National Guardsmen were assigned to patrol the Greenwood Jail where the two men are held.

Meanwhile, Sheriff H. C. Strider asserted he is "not sure at all" that the body recovered after Till's disappearance is that of the Chicago boy.

The Special Grand Jury returned the indictments after the victim's uncle, Mose Wright, testified that a ring found on the body belonged to young Till.

Bryant, of the community of Money, and Milam, of nearby Glendora, were jailed shortly af-

Rites Held In Chicago For Victim As Hearing Goes On

World
Fri. 9-9-55.

By E. J. MAYS

SUMNER, Miss. — (INS) — Two Mississippi white men were indicted for murder Tuesday in the kidnap slaying of a Chicago Negro boy accused of wolf-whistling at one of the men's wife.

ter Till was spirited away Aug. 28 from his uncle's Greenwood home where he had been visiting.

POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION

Three days later a body was discovered in Tallahatchie River and

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LOSER IN THE TILL MURDER CASE was the state of Mississippi represented by the three man prosecuting team shown above (l. to r.) Dist. Atty. Gerald Chatham, Robert B. Smith III., and Hamilton Caldwell.

The state made a vigorous attempt to have the two white half brothers, Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam, convicted on the charge of murdering 14 year old Emmett Till. In the state's summary argument Atty. Smith ,a specially appointed prosecuting attorney, challenged the jury to convict the two men "So people outside the state can not say Mississippi did not carry out justice." - (Photo by Tisby) Memphis, Tenn. (SNS)

World Shocked By Till Trial; Old, Young Leave Mississippi

Daily World
June, 9-27-55

By CHESTER M. HAMPTON

The aftermath of the Emmett Till Lynch-Murder trial reverberated all over the Globe this weekend as a watchful world, unanimous in condemnation of Mississippi, voiced its horror.

Naturally, a most immediate reaction was observed in the 'backwoods' Delta section of the state where the brutal lynching occurred. Not waiting on many Negro sharecroppers who vowed to leave the state season as the cotton crop was, many of the principals in the trial left the area immediately.

Mose Wright, 64-year-old uncle of the murdered boy, gave away his three dogs, sold his chickens and furniture, and headed for Albany, New York where he has been promised a lifetime job with a nursery company.

Although the move was obviously dictated by concern for his safety (he testified that J. W. Milam, one of the chief suspects, threatened that he would never reach the age of 65 if he told of his nephew's abduction), the aged man pledged that he would return to the Leflore County to testify in the kidnaping trial of Milam and his half-brother, Roy Bryant, whose wife is the alleged cause of the mutilation-murder.

CONGRESSMAN DIGGS

Congressman Charles C. Diggs (D. Mich.) stated that he would challenge the right of Mississippi Representatives to take their seats in Congress. He said he would make his challenge on the basis that they were not elected by all of the people since Negroes are disfranchised in many Mississippi localities.

Of more immediate concern to the Congressman, however, was the safety of 18-year-old Willie Reed and Mrs. Mandy Bradley, said to be over 100. He personally moved them to Detroit.

That this was no un-necessary step was borne out by the report that aged Mrs. Bradley (no relation to Mrs. Mamie Bradley, the dead youth's mother) had first decided to spend her few remaining years in her Mississippi home. However, the report continued, a group of white men came to her home late Friday night and she escaped them only by climbing out of a window.

Young Reed, a sharecropper on Milam's farm, testified against his employer when he told the jury of Mississippi farmers that he heard the screams of a human being coming from a barn and saw his employer, Milam, emerge from that barn, gun on hip, to get a drink of water from the well.

VICTIM'S MOTHER SPEAKS

In New York, Monday, Mrs. Mamie Bradley, who positively identified the body of her dead son, told a protest rally that the jury's verdict was a signal to Mississippians that "Lynching is now in order."

"What I saw of the trial was a shame before God and man," she added. The rally was sponsored by a Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.

Also on the program was NAACP Executive Roy Wilkins who asked: "What's to be done about it?"

The chant of "March, March, March" arose from the audience.

"If we marched," Wilkins replied "We'd lose most of you before you got to South Ferry. It is time to stop being emotional and be smart."

He recommended that Negroes put pressure on the Democratic Party to clean its house in Mississippi.

New York City Councilman Earl Brown declared: "No Negro can hope to be raised as a normal human being in Mississippi." He advocated setting up a Mississippi Refugee Committee to aid Negroes wishing to leave the state.

He also criticized the Federal Bureau of Investigation for its failure to act in the case.

Meanwhile British and French newspapers gave front page display to the "Not Guilty" verdict.

The Rightwing Paris newspaper L'Aurore headlined its front page story "Shameful Verdict At Sumner U.S.A. Two White Assassins of Young Black Acquitted!"

L'Aurore's report on the trial of the accused kidnap-murderers of Emmett Till called the court proceedings "An Awful Comedy."

Paris' Pro-Communist Liberation said the trial "Scandalized All Honest People in America."

France Soir printed a front page picture showing relatives comforting Till's mother after the verdict.

In London newspapers, the Till trial verdict took foreign billing with the Argentina story.

The Daily Mirror gave its Sumner report a three-column head of heavy black type.

German newspapers, however, ignored or gave only very brief reports on the verdict.

Says Probe FBI Indifference To Miss. Murders

Daily World
June 9-27-55

BALTIMORE—(INS)— A Mississippi Negro leader demanded Sunday night that the government investigate the conduct of Southern agents of the FBI.

Dr. T. R. M. Howard, who worked as a liaison between witnesses and prosecuting officers of last week's Emmett Till trial, said: 'It's a strange thing that the FBI can never seem to work out who is responsible for killing Negroes in the South."

Dr. Howard spoke to 2,500 persons at a meeting of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in a Baltimore Methodist Church.

He said: "A wave of terror has hit the South. It is in Mississippi." He said he himself is a "marked man" and keeps two bodyguards on duty 24 hours a day at his Mound Bayou, Miss., home.

He urged national Negro leaders to confer with President Eisenhower, Attorney General Herbert Brownell and FBI Chief J. Edgar Hoover "to find out why they (the FBI) can't solve crimes in the South.'

"ROMAN HOLIDAY"

Describing the Till trial as "a Roman holiday," Howard branded the charge that the 14-year-old Chicago youth assaulted Mrs. Roy Bryant "a lie." He added: "Every time they get ready to lynch a Negro in the South, "it's got to be about a white woman."

Mrs. Bryant's husband and Bryant's half-brother, J. W. Milam, were acquitted last week in Sumner of murdering Till.

In connection with the charge against the FBI, Dr. Howard cited the recent murders of the Rev. Walter W. Lee and Lamar Smith, both active in the movement to get more Mississippi Negroes to vote.

(An FBI spokesman in Washington said the Justice Department ruled the Till murder did not violate any Federal law and therefore there was no basis for Federal action.)

(The spokesman said FBI reports on the Lee and Smith murders were submitted to the Justice Department and that officials ruled was outside the Bureau's jurisdiction.

Minister Says Miss. To Pay For Till's Murder

Pittsburgh Courier
NORFOLK

Dr. W. H. Skipwith, Richmond evangelist, said in a sermon here last week that Mississippi will pay for the acts of two men charged with the kidnap-murder of Emmett Louis Till, 14-year-old Chicago boy, while he was visiting his uncle. He declared that God will see that justice is meted out to those responsible for the boy's death.

The evangelist referred to the murder of the boy in three sermons during a week of services in Norfolk which closed on Sunday night. The minister, who celebrated his 80th birthday on Tuesday, Oct. 4, referred to the Mississippi lynching the first time when he delivered a message at First Calvary Baptist Church on Tuesday night on the handwriting on the wall, Daniel 5:27—"Tekel; Thou art weighed in the balances and art found wanting."

Norfolk, Va.

"MISSISSIPPI is raging," the evangelist said, "but God still lives." He told how Mussolini's armies ran Emperor Haile Selassie from his throne in Ethiopia when they invaded the little African country in 1935. He said Haile Selassie appealed to Sir Austin Chamberlain for help, and was denied that help and had to flee his country.

But the emperor went back to his country, the minister continued, after Italy had to withdraw her forces, and Mussolini was later killed in the streets by a mob. The speaker said all the Christian has to do is wait on God and he wil lsee that justice is done. He stressed the importance of waiting on God.

Sat. 10-15-55

IN HIS MESSAGE at New Calvary Friday night, Dr. Skipwith reviewed the history of the Jews when they were led by Moses from slavery in Egypt to the land of promise. His message was built around the delivery of the children of Israel from the armies of Pharaoh when they were hard pressed by the hosts at the Red Sea.

Dr. Skipwith preached on "You May Get By, But You Can't Get Away" on Sunday night at New Calvary. He said "Mississippi got by but she won't get away" in the kidnap-murder of Emmett Louis Till, 14-year-old boy from Chicago, who ran afoul of Mississippi racial prejudice and lawlessness while visiting his uncle in August.

The minister, who joined the church 73 years ago, has been in the Christian ministry 59 years. He has preached in almost every state in the United States and in some countries abroad. Dr. Skipwith's family lives at 413 W. Franklin street, Richmond, Va. He also has an office in Philadelphia, Pa.

Moses Wright Made His Decision—Became Hero

Daily World
Mon. 10-2-55

BY LLOYD L. GENERAL

SUMNER, Miss.—(ANP)— Moses Wright can never again live in safety in the Mississippi he has known all his 64 years.

He knew that whatever chances he had of making peace with his white neighbors ended when he took the witness stand here and pointed unflinchingly at J. W. Milam and swore that Milam was one of the white men who took 14-year-old Emmett Till out of his bed and into the night—to death.

For Moses Wright committed an act of bravery which is difficult for most people to comprehend. He could expect neither pity nor sympathy from the white people in Mississippi; he knew better than to believe that the law could or would protect him.

Moses Wright is a hero. Not to the white people in the Mississippi Delta. Not to J. W. Milam or Roy Bryant. Not to Defense Lawyer Sidney Carlton. Perhaps not to a lot of frightened, cowed Negroes in Mississippi—they think him a fool.

But to millions of other people who understand the enormity of decision, the temerity of spirit that could lead a Negro man to stand up and point out two white men as the murderers of a Negro, he was truly a hero.

The day before the trial began, Carlton went to see the old man. That in itself was an unusual act—defense counsels are not accustomed to calling on the chief witness for the prosecution.

Moses Wright met Carlton and a group of reporters at the door of his house, where he had been sleeping—alone—with a 32 calibre rifle under his pillow and a double-barrelled shotgun under the bed.

The white-haired old man stood there, tired and perhaps a little bewildered. But there was not a trace of fear about him as he asked his visitors to enter. And there was even a little defiance when Carlton suggested that things might not go well with Moses Wright if he fingered Milam and Bryant.

Mitchell Says Murderers Of Till Could Have Been Tried in a Real Court

Des Moines, Iowa
Thurs. 10-13-55

Hartford, Conn.—If the two major political parties faced their "responsibilities," racial violence, such as the Till murder, and discrimination could be ended "wthin six months", an NAACP official asserted here.

Addressing a CIO-sponsored civil rights conference, on Oct. 5, Clarence Mitchell, NAACP Washington bureau director, told his audience that a "march on the local politicians and members of Congress in your own home district and your own home state who are strangling efforts to get basic civil rights bills enacted into law" would be more effective than a march on Mississippi to protest the lynching of 14-year-old Emmett Louis Till.

"If Congress had passed civil rights bill," he maintained, "the murderers of 14-year-old Emmett Till would have been tried in a real court instead of a circus-tent, as was the case in Sumner, Miss. The evidence against them would have been assembled by the capable and scientific law enforcement officers of the FBI rather than an over-stuffed sheriff and his bungling assistants. There would be the legal possibility of hitting the State of Mississippi where it hurts most — namely, the pocketbooks, by bringing suit against the county in which the outrage occurred."

Refused to Push

"The Democrats have refused to push for civil rights legislation in Congress in order to preserve what they call party harmony," Mr. Mitchell recalled.

He said "civilized people recoil at the kind of harmony that links honest men and women elected to Congress by the ballots of free people with individuals from Mississippi and Georgia, who hold office solely because potential voters are kept from the ballot box with shotguns, economic pressure and Nazi-like election regulations."

Expressing disgust also with Republican tactics in the civil rights area, the NAACP spokesman noted that "again and again, Republican spokesmen have harped on the theme that there are enough laws and regulations already on the books."

Three-Point Program

Mr. Mitchell called for a three-point government program to guarantee civil rights and to end "outrages" that have occurred in Mississippi:

1. Passage of the civil rights bills now pending in the 84th Congress;
2. Full support for anti-discrimination provisions in federal bills that provide funds for schools, hospitals, recreation programs and other public activities;
3. The ousting from Congress and from the Executive branch of government all who are elected or appointed to office on the basis of political power that they have gained through racial restrictions on the right o vote.

Much of Blame

"Much of the blame for events in Mississippi rests in Washington because our government has failed to use even the existing machinery for adequate protection of colored citizens in that state," the NAACP spokesman asserted.

Sharply criticizing the U. S. Justice Department, Mr. Mitchell contended that there has been "a shameful breakdown in the civil rights activity" of that department.

The justice agency, he charged, "is following the pattern of telling the public it has no authority to act" in civil rights violations "and at the same time, refusing to explain to Congress what authority is needed for necessary corrective action."

8886

NO WHITE MAN GIVEN DEATH FOR KILLING IN MISS. SINCE 1890, WRITER OBSERVES

World, Birmingham, Ala.
Tues. 9-27-55

BY STAFF WRITER

SUMNER, Miss —(SNS)— Since before the turn of the twentieth century no white man in Mississippi has been given the death penalty for killing a Negro and here Friday evening the state's approximately 65 year record was kept intact when an all white Tallahatchie county jury found Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam, the defendants in the nationwide publicized "wolf whistle" trial, not guilty.

The dramatic ending to the five day trial of the two men who were being tried for allegedly kidnapping 14 year old Emmett Till of Chicago from the Money, Miss. home of his uncle Mose Wright, whom he was visiting, and later killing for allegedly "wolf whistling" at Bryant's wife occured at 3:46 p. m., an hour and seven minutes after the jury had retired to the jury room, when jury foreman J. A. Shaw, 30 year old Webb, Miss., farmer, in a high pitched voice, read the "not guilty" verdict.

Reaction to the verdict was distinctly on a racial basis with the few Negroes still remaining in the courtroom reacting in shocked disbelief while the whites greeted the decision with a murmur of approval.

Jury foreman Shaw revealed that the jury took three ballots before reaching a verdict. On the first ballot three didn't vote, on the second two didn't vote and on the third balloting the jurors were unanimous for acquittal, Shaw explained.

The jury, foreman Shaw felt, reached the not guilty verdict because they felt the state had failed to positively identify the body as that of the Chicago youth.

Mrs. Mamie Bradley, the alleged slain youth's mother, was not in court to hear the verdict, left while the defense was presenting its final argument ,she along with U. S. Congressman Charles C. Diggs Jr., Michigan's first Negro representative who was sitting in on the trial as an observer, quietly slipped out of the courtroom and departed for the Mound Bayou home of Dr. T. R. M. Howard.

Contacted later Mrs. Bradley explained she had left earlier because "I was expecting an acquittal and didn't want to be there when it happened."

Bryant and Milam were all smiles as the verdict was announced and were embraced by their wives after the verdict was read. The two men now face charges on kidnapping.

District Atty. Stanny Sanders, who district includes Leflore County where the alleged kidnapping occured, said the county grand jury, which is set to meet Nov. 7, will be asked to return kidnap indictments against the half brothers.

The latest known incident when a Mississippi white man was sentenced to death for killing a Negro occured in 1890 in the Circuit Court of Grenada County, Miss.

Diggs calls Till trial 'fantastic'

Afro-American
Baltimore Md.
Sat. 10-8-55

DETROIT (ANP) — Back in Detroit, Cong. Charles Diggs last week called the trial of two white men for the murder of Emmett L. Till, in Mississippi "fantastic."

Sunday addressing a mass protest meeting, the congressman said he never saw such "sheer perjury and fantastic twisting of facts," at the Sumner trial.

Rep. Diggs told more than 6,000 persons that Mississippi had failed to meet "this crucial test of justice in the treatment of human beings."

On trial were Roy Bryant and his half brother, J. W. Milam. The pair was accused of murdering Emmett L. Till of Chicago who was visiting relatives near Morey, Miss. and acquitted.

Young Till was accused of having wolf whistled at the wife of Bryant.

Mississippi jurors flayed in failure to indict men

Afro-American
Baltimore Md.
Sat. 10-8-55

BROOKHAVEN, Miss. — District Attorney E. C. Barlow sharply criticized a jury for failing to return an indictment against three men accused of the murder of Lamar Smith here Aug. 13.

Barlow also accused Sheriff Robert Case of failing to make an immediate arrest "although he knew everything I know" about the slaying. He termed the jury's action a "gross miscarriage of justice."

Three white men — Mack Smith, Noah Smith and Charles Falvoy — have been accused of the murder. All three are at liberty under $20,000 bonds each.

Barlow said another investigation is under way in an effort to get another grand jury to indict the men. Smith was allegedly slain because of his political activities and fight to get colored citizens to vote.

Smith was shot down in the Court House Square as a crowd watched. Although some of the by-standers were as close as 20 feet to the victim, the jury was unable to get one witness.

ASK FIGHTING $$$ AT TILL FUNERAL:

'Let people see what they did to my boy,' his mother cries

Afro-American
Baltimore Md.
Sat. 9-17-55

CHICAGO — The body of Emmett Louis Till, 14, victim of murder in Mississippi, lay in an open casket while funeral services were held here Saturday because his mother wanted to "Let the people see what they did to my boy."

The services were conducted by Bishop Louis H. Ford of St Paul Church of Christ, in Roberts Temple Church, Bishop Isiah Roberts, pastor. Screams from the 2,000 mourners in the church were heard, as he intoned:

"For as much as ye have done unto one of these, my little ones, ye have also done unto me."

The Rev. Archibald J. Carey, former Third Ward alderman and an AME minister, also spoke at the services.

In addition to some 2,000 persons packed into the church, more than 2,000 others were jammed in front of the building, as Bishop Roberts, pastor, and Bishop Ford led prayers.

* * *

MRS. MAMIE E. Bradley, mother of the murdered youth, collapsed and had to be assisted to a seat after viewing her son's body. Several others among the 18 relatives of the lad also were overcome by grief as they passed the bier.

The procession to the cemetery for his burial Tuesday included more than 50 automobiles. Capt. Albert Anderson, in charge of the police detail at the church, estimated that more than 100,000 persons viewed the youth's body.

Other relatives at the funeral, beside the youth's mother, included Mrs. Alma Spearman, his grandmother; George T. Smith, an uncle, and Mrs. Mose Wright of Money, Miss., a great aunt with whom he was living when kidnaped.

* * *

BISHOP FORD based his sermon on the Gospel according to Matthew 18:6:

"But whosoever shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it is better for him that a millstone was hung about his neck and that he drowned in the depths of the sea."

At least 10,000 persons approached the pine casket before services for young Till began.

At the request of his mother, Mrs. Bradley, the casket was left open. "Let the people see what they did to my boy," she sobbed when his body was returned from Mississippi.

* * *

THE BOY'S face showed evidence of a brutal beating before his murder. Almost all of his teeth were knocked out and the right side of his face was almost unrecognizable. There was a small bullet hole through the temple.

A minister stood on a raised platform behind the casket urging the mourners to contribute money to obtain legal aid in fighting this southern atrocity."

The Rev. Cornelius Adams, assistant pastor of the Great Harvest Baptist Church, called for "fighting dollars."

"We don't want our children to suffer violence," he said; "we don't want to see our people killed just because of a childish accident."

At least $700 had been collected before the services began, he said.

* * *

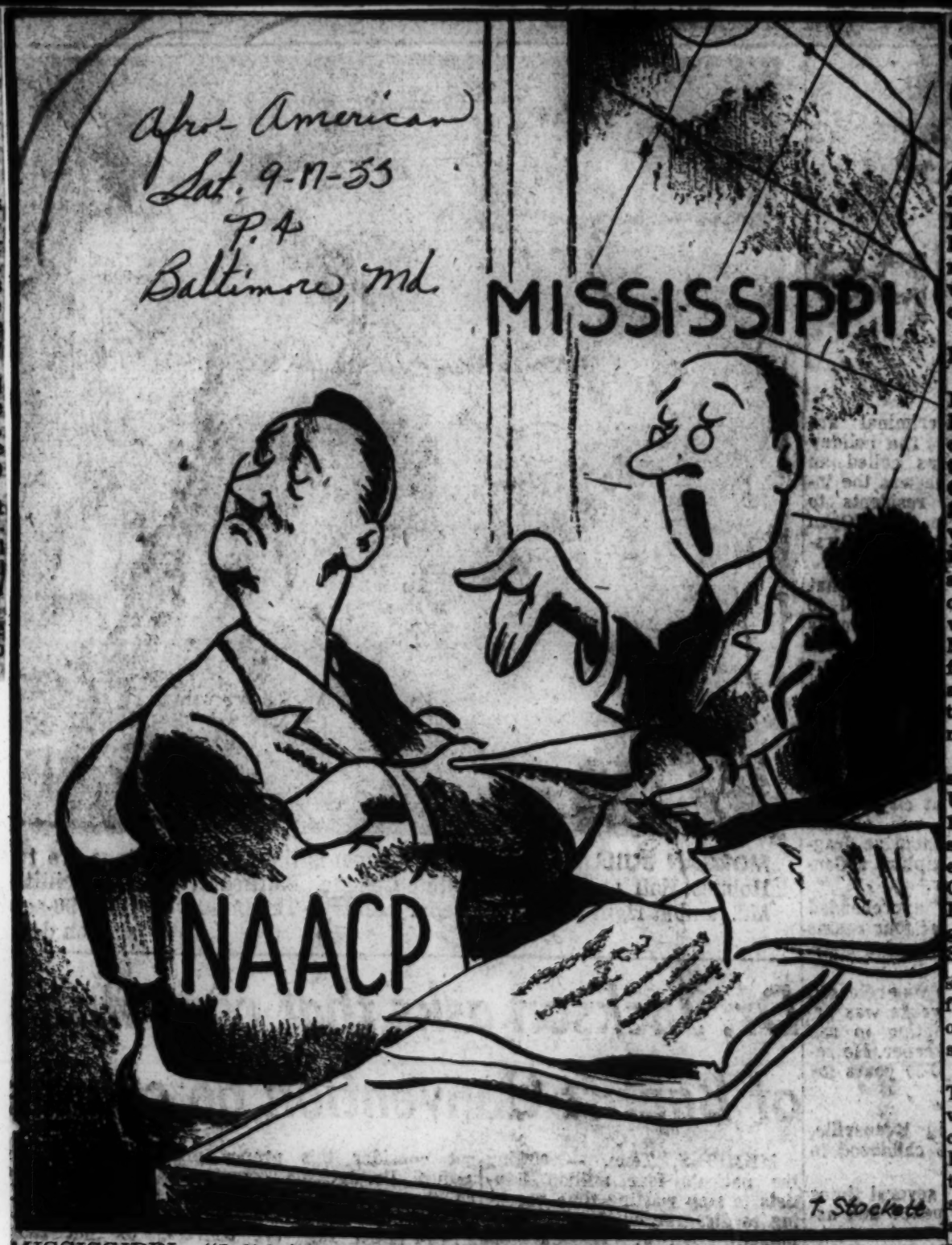
UPWARDS OF 5,000 persons stood outside the church during the services waiting their turn to file past the coffin. Church officials and the boy's mother decided to postpone the burial until Tuesday to enable those who so desired to view the body.

Thousands of persons had jammed the area around the Reynar and Sons funeral home, forcing police to rope off the area for three blocks to preserve order.

The crowd was not ugly, but the jam was so great that nearly every window in the funeral home was shattered. The chapel itself was left "a shambles," a spokesman for the home said.

Some 30 police officers were on duty around the church to preserve order.

Afro-American
Sat. 9-17-55
P. 4
Baltimore, Md.



MISSISSIPPI—"I didn't lynch those three guys; they were murdered."
NAACP—"But they are dead, aren't they?"

Say Till Slaying Demands Shake-Up Of U. S. Department Of Justice

Jackson, Miss.

John T. Bernard, Chairman of the Civil Rights Congress of Illinois, demanded that President Eisenhower "shake-up" the Justice Department and put an end to the reign of terror in Mississippi, which has resulted in the lynching of a 14-year-old Chicago boy.

In his letter to the President, Bernard stated:

"The lynching in Greenwood, Miss., of a 14-year-old Chicagoan, Emmett Louis Till is the final proof of the total break-down of law in the State of Mississippi. Reverend George Wesley Lee and Lamar Smith, two leaders of the right-to-vote movement for Negroes were murdered by KuKlux terrorists—and nothing was done. Hundreds of Negro voters were threatened with death—and nothing was done. Mississippi State leaders openly defied the U. S. Supreme Court, and attacked those who are attempting to live under the Constitution—and nothing was done.

"When will the State of Mississippi be brought back under the U. S. Constitution? The 14th and 15th Amendments place this responsibility squarely on the Federal government and its Attorney General. But Attorney General Brownell has shown no more regard for the constitution than the State and local leaders in Mississippi. Brownell should be removed for his failure to carry out his oath of office to "uphold the U. S. Constitution."

"Mr. President, Emmett Louis Till is the orphan son of a war veteran who gave his life for his country, under your command. As President, we call on you to see that the lynchers of this veteran's son be brought to justice. Crime after crime against the Negro people in Mississippi has gone unpunished. The lynching of a Negro child for an alleged "rude remark" to a white person is the final climax of Hitler-like lawlessness.

"When shall we start to put some real democracy into practice—or hide our heads in shame before the entire world?"

Bernard has also written to Senator Thomas C. Hennings, Jr., chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights, asking his committee to investigate the circumstances of the "child lynching" and other violations of Constitutional rights and Federal law in the State of Mississippi.

8887

One of 92 daring to vote in Miss

- Senate unit also readies investigation
- Citizens Councils blamed

By LOUIS LAUTIER

WASHINGTON (NNPA)—The FBI was reported Wednesday [illegible] making a preliminary investigation into what was termed a new form of lynching in Mississippi to determine whether existing Federal civil rights laws have been violated.

The case, brought to the attention of a Senate Rules subcommittee Tuesday, involves the shooting death of the Rev. George W. Lee in Belzoni, Miss. in an effort to intimidate colored persons into removing their names from state voting lists.

Federal civil rights statutes make it a federal offense for two or more persons to injure, oppress, threaten or intimidate any citizen in the free exercise or enjoyment of any federally secured right, the maximum punishment for which is a fine of $5,000 and ten years in prison.

• • •

THE RIGHT to vote is a federall secured right.

Clarence Mitchell, head of the Washington Bureau of the NAACP, accompanied by J. Francis Pohlaus, counsel for the bureau, told the Senate Privileges and Elections subcommittee, about the murder of the Rev. Mr. Lee.

A system has been worked out in Mississippi, Mitchell charged, so that when a colored man pays his poll tax his employer fires him unless he tears up his poll tax receipt.

Mitchell said he has information from a resident doctor in Mississippi that white men, reported to be members of the Citizens Councils, have systematically intimidated colored persons who have paid their poll taxes and registered.

• • •

THIS DOCTOR informed him, Mitchell testified, that colored persons who had done so were told to have their names stricken from the county voting rolls. Ninety - two of them, including the Rev. Mr. Lee, refused to do so, he said.

About four weeks ago, he testified, a wave of car - windshield breaking began. The cars were owned by colored persons. Although this property destruction continued for about two weeks, Mitchell said, no arrests were made.

He also testified that the Elks' Rest was broken into and, after much property was destroyed, a note was left warning that this was what whould happen to colored people who try to vote.

• • •

QUOTING HIS informant on the Lee slaying, Mitchell testified:

"About midnight May 7, the Rev. George W. Lee was driving along Church street in Belzoni, when, according to witnesses, three white men in a convertible car shot three times and drove off.

"The Rev. Mr. Lee lost control of his car and crashed into a house. He was rushed to a hospital and died on his way.

"I (the informant) assisted the coroner in the post - morten examination and this is what the examination revealed."

The doctor then went on to give a medical statement, which showed that in his opinion the Rev. Mr. Lee was shot to death from the convertible.

DEATH OF REV. G. W. LEE IN BELZONI SATURDAY NIGHT PUTS SPOTLIGHT ON RACE RELATIONS IN MISSISSIPPI

Say Victim In Mystery Death Was On Citizens Council Black List

Belzoni, Miss., May 9.—(DSN)—Negro citizens here, in spite of other, and equally obvious implications, say the death of Rev. G. W. Lee, widely known Baptist minister and businessman, here Saturday night, is unmistakably linked to the recent meeting in Mound Bayou, of the Regional Council of Negro Leadership, whose president and founder and guiding genius is the nationally known Mound Bayou physician, Dr. T. R. M. Howard.

According to reports, the almost unanimous opinion here that the death of Rev. Lee, who was also an active member of the Regional Council of Negro Leadership, the NAACP, and the most active Negro leader in local affairs, sprang from the fact that deep resentment among white people here was evident following the recent meeting at Mound Bayou, where Belzoni was represented as a sort of Exhibit A" in the mistreatment of Negro citizens in the state, as a result of the recent decisions of the U. S. Supreme Court outlawing segregation in the public schools, and the demands of the NAACP for immediate integration.

Aside from the Mound Bayou meeting which pointed to Belzoni as a sort of "Exhibit A" in the mistreatment of Negro citizens, the town and Humphreys County in which it is located, has been almost constantly in the spotlight for more than two years because of suits attempted by Negro citizens because of the denial of the right to pay poll tax, register and vote. Rev. Lee, and the Regional Council of Negro Leadership is regarded as mainly responsible for the continued efforts on the part of local Negroes to obtain their rights as citizens with the result, according to reports, that Rev. Lee was first on the list of the "black-list" of the local Citizens Council.

The Citizens Councils, now spreading over the State, with an organization formed in Jackson last week, and which has already spread to other Southern States, is an organization of whites pledged to maintain segregation despite decision past or future, of the United States Supreme Court.

Hodding Carter, the Pulitzer prize winning Greenville, Miss., editor, himself recently under attack from the group, has characterized the Citizens Council as an "Uptown Ku Klux Klan."

Rev. Lee died en route to the Humphreys County hospital early Sunday morning after his car crashed into a house after another car passed his car on the right side of the street, as witnesses said they heard two loud shots.

Rev. Lee was taken to the hospital by L. H. Harper, Negro taxi driver, and Willie Brownlee, another Negro man.

According to reports, although he was still alive when taken from the wreck, he did not speak, or say anything while en route to the hospital.

At the request of his family, an examination of the body was made following death by Dr. W. A. Walwyn, chief surgeon, Afro- American Hospital at Yazoo City and Dr. C. C. Battle, Negro physician, at Indianola a few miles north of Belzoni.

According to reports the examination revealed a number of lead pellets about the head and face, evidently buckshot believed to have been fired from the passing car.

According to reports, the examination revealed that one shot had passed through the neck at the throat which accounted for the fact that the already mortally wounded man said nothing en route to the hospital.

The Humphreys County sheriff's office announced that the lead pellets have been sent to the Washington laboratory of the F. B. I. for examination.

The sheriff's office also announced that it was continuing its investigation of the case.

Rev. G. W. Lee is well known in Baptist ministerial circles and was the pastor of St. James Baptist Church in Jackson. Aside from his ministerial actiivities he also operated a grocery store and a printing shop located at 230 Hayden Street here, living with his wife at the same address.

The funeral service was scheduled to be held here Thursday.

Race Hate Slaying Of Mississippi Minister Stirs Nationwide Protest

New York.—Federal investigation of the murder of a Mississippi Negro clergyman who needed to give up his right to vote is urged by Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, in a letter to Attorney General Herbert Brownell, Jr.

Mr. Wilkins further asks for a conference with the Attorney General to discuss "developments in Mississippi since last fall," including "openly announced" plans "designed to prevent Negroes from registering and voting in elections held there."

The letter, made public here today, cites a report of the Association's southeastern regional secretary, Mrs. Ruby Hurley, on the murder of the Reverend George W. Lee in Belzoni, Miss., on the night of May 7. An active NAACP member, Mr. Lee was one of the first Negroes to register in Humphreys County.

Threats Reduce Registration

At one time there were 400 colored persons registered in the county. Threats, pressures and acts of intimidation reduced the number to 91. Mr. Lee is reported as having told a friend on the afternoon of his murder that "someone at the courthouse" had warned him to remove his name from the list of registered voters. This he refused to do, saying that he intended to vote.

That night, driving home in his car he was killed by shots fired from an automobile which had overtaken him. Fatally wounded, his lower left jaw shattered into fragments, Mr. Lee lost control of his car which crashed into a roadside house. The murder car escaped in the darkness. One known witness has since disappeared.

No arrests have been made. Governor Hugh White has refused to respond to a letter from Mrs. Hurley urging him to take action to prevent a whitewash of the murder. The Governor is reported in the Jackson State Times as having said that "he never acted on a request from this group."

Order FBI Probe Of Lee Lynching

NEW YORK — In answer to requests from the NAACP and the Civil Liberties Union, the Justice Department has ordered the FBI to investigate the shotgun killing of the Rev. George W. Lee, militant NAACP leader and business man, in Belzoni, Miss.

The unsolved murder has been termed a lynching and has stirred national interest because Rev. Lee was the first Negro to register to vote in Humphrey's county, Miss., and spent a great deal of time crusading for other Negroes to register to vote.

Rev. Lee was shot as he was driving home at midnight on May 7. He was found dying in his wrecked car which crashed into a house. He had been warned by whites not to try to vote.

Roy Wilkins, NAACP executive secretary, who flew to Belzoni to talk at a memorial meeting there in honor of the slain minister, demanding an investigation wrote Attorney General Brownell:

"The murder was an act to deprive Negroes of the constitutional right to vote as citizens of the United States and indifference on the part of local law enforcement officers suggest toleration of this deprivation and border on approval of murder as a weapon."

Fears Death, Cleric Quits Lynch Town

A man who believes he was marked to follow the late Rev. George W. Lee of Belzoni, Miss. to a martyr's death told his story to the Defender in Chicago Tuesday.

Rev. James H. Hargrove, 54, a friend of Rev. Lee, said he left Mississippi after attending the lynching victim's funeral last week.

Reverend Hargrove said he was a solicitor for the NAACP in his hometown, Mileston, Miss., and Holmes county.

He left after a friend told him of overhearing two white men saying "I was likely to follow Rev. Lee if I didn't quit working for the NAACP," Rev. Hargrove said.

He told the Defender his credit had been frozen since the first of the year although it had always been good in the past. Rev. Hargrove said he was saddled with a mortgage covering hidden expenses and cotton ginning services he never received.

Reverend Hargrove left his wife, Mamie, and 10 daughters on the farm in Mileston, he said.

Foreclosure on the farm will be made Monday, he told the Defender.

Meanwhile, Miss Olezia White, a substitute teacher who had been considered an important witness in the Lee murder case, was ordered to get out of town, according to Roy Wilkins.

However, Sheriff I. J. Shelton, when asked about Miss White, said, "What witness?"

Witness To Lynching In Miss Found

NEW YORK— An eyewitness to the fatal shooting of the Rev. George W. Lee in Belzoni, Miss. on May 7 told FBI agents in East St Louis, Ill. the shocking horror he had seen that night, according to information received here by Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The witness, Alex Hudson, was located in East St Louis by the NAACP. He had left Mississippi a week after the killing. Billy Jones, an East St Louis lawyer and president of the Illinois State NAACP, accompanied the witness to the FBI office where the Mississippian told his story.

Hudson says that he was sitting with a friend when the Rev Mr Lee's car passed. He saw another car overtake that of the clergyman and heard the shots fired from the second car. Rev Lee's car swerved off the road and crashed into a house while the other car disappeared in the darkness.

FBI Still Probing Lee's Death

WASHINGTON — (INS) — The criminal division of the Justice department is continuing its investigation of the death of the Rev. George W. Lee, Negro civil rights leader.

Reverend Lee was killed by a shotgun blast of undetermined origin at Belzoni, Miss., on the night of May 7.

Justice department officials refused to say what had been announced in the investigation which was instigated at request of the NAACP.

It is charged that Rev. Lee was slain because he had been urging Negroes in Humphreys county to register and vote. Negroes outnumber whites in the county.

The death of Rev. Lee possibly had a direct effect on the number of Negroes who voted in the recent Democratic primary in Mississippi. Shortly before the election a clerk revealed that Negro registration had dropped almost 100 per cent.

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However, Sheriff I. J. Shelton, when asked about Miss White, said, "What witness?"

Remember Reverend Lee

The shocking lynching of the Reverend George Lee in Belonzi, Miss., two weeks ago has stirred resentment among Negroes and liberal whites all over the nation. This black mark against America was the handiwork of race-crazed thugs who murdered the Baptist minister in gangland fashion out of fear, fear that Negroes would win their voting rights in Humphrey County.

Our anger at this outrage will serve no purpose, however, unless it leads us to action that is constructive. It is not enough to call upon the agencies of government, national and state, to bring the lynchers to the bar of justice. It is not enough to denounce the hate-mongers who keep racism alive in the backward hinterlands of our country. We must do more.

No greater tribute can be paid the memory of Reverend Lee than to carry forward successfully the registration and vote campaign which he died fighting to get started. The right to vote is guaranteed by the Constitution and specifically sustained by edicts of the United States Supreme Court. The law is on our side.

As long as Negroes in Mississippi or in any other areas of the nation are unable or unwilling to register and vote, there can be no true citizenship for them. The leaders of Mississippi who rallied at the funeral of Reverend Lee can make sure that he did not die in vain. All of us can make Reverend Lee's life meaningful. We can register ourselves, rally our friends and neighbors and see that the cause of first class citizenship receives a new birth at the polling booths.

The serpents who sit in high offices and consider themselves statesmen must be kicked out into the streets by the mass outpouring of voters, black and white alike, who are determined to rid America of lynchers. The best way to remember the Reverend Lee, we submit, is to register and vote.

Mississippi Pulls One

The move on the part of the law-abiding citizens of the state of Mississippi to uncover the brutal lynch slaying of Rev. George W. Lee, which occurred a few days ago should claim national attention. The militant Baptist minister was ruthlessly murdered in true gangland fashion, presumably for his courage to stand up and be counted on the side of those citizens who believed in law and order and democratic forms as relates to the full participation in government and the enjoyment of human rights as extended to all citizens under the Constitution of our country.

Surely the reluctance of Governor Hugh White in an all out performance of the duties of Governor, when such an ugly spectacle as gang murder pops up its head, is not a gesture of which Mississippi and the nation should feel proud.

The life and security of any citizen is an important factor in our system of government and to treat lightly such a grave situation only imperils the lives of other citizens, regardless of color or creed.

It does not stand to common reason that the good people of the state of Mississippi are willing in the face of all their investments and strides at making a record improvement in relations and common welfare, pass up such a glaring opportunity afforded in the going to the very bottom and ridding that state of an underworld element which would not even become the days of the old Ku Klux regime.

No real patriot should take pride in making a political issue out of human safety, feeling that laxity in the undercovering of this ugly atrocity, would enhance one's political ambitions.

Let the agencies of the federal government and the state of Mississippi get busy and nip in the bud this practice of intimidating citizens and blotting the fair name of our country.



MRS. ROSEBUD LEE, widow of the slain Belzoni, Miss., pastor. Mrs. Lee was not with her husband when he was lynched in gangland style.



REV. W. W. WALDEN

The Bill of Rights Revisited

Senator Thomas C. Hennings, Jr., assisted by Senators O'Mahoney and Langer—members of a subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee—will shortly hold the first of a series of hearings on the effectiveness of the Bill of Rights under present-day social and economic conditions. The investigation could not be more timely. Only last February, Chief Justice Warren reminded a St. Louis audience that the Bill of Rights has become "controversial." Not since the La Follette investigation of 1939-40 has a committee of the Senate undertaken to check up on the continuing validity of the guaranties embodied in the first ten amendments. Those historic hearings, however, considered only the right of labor to organize and bargain collectively; today the range of inquiry is necessarily as broad as the Bill of Rights. Indeed in some areas and in certain situations the Bill of Rights would seem to be not so much controversial as moribund. Last week, for example, the Reverend Willie G. Lee, a Negro minister who had been active in the drive to register Negro voters in Belzoni, Mississippi, was murdered. Belzoni is in the Mississippi Delta country, where the White Citizens' Councils are more active than elsewhere in the South. The odds would seem to be about ten to one against the likelihood of local law-enforcement officials making a thorough investigation of this or a dozen similar recent incidents in the South. But in the North, East, and West, too, the subcommittee will find many violations of civil rights. If only the most flagrant are looked into, the committee and its staff are in for a busy time.

May 28, 1955



NAACP plans statewide mass protest meeting in Belzoni. Meeting was held Sunday, May 22. Gov. Hugh White of Mississippi snubbed NAACP requests for aid in the investigation. Left to right, Gus Counts, chairman, local board; Ruby Hurley, southeast regional secretary; Medger Evers, state NAACP representative, and W. R. Reynolds, local N. A. A. C. P. president.

Exclusive Pictures Of Lynch Victim's Funeral





MORE THAN 1000 persons crowd into the town of Belzoni, Miss., for funeral of Rev. George Lee, a militant pastor lynched in gangland style. Rev. Lee, a leader of Negro voting rights, was fatally wounded by shotgun blasts from an auto carrying several white persons. Photo at right shows shotgun wounds on Rev. Lee's face as he lies in casket during funeral. Photo at right shows overflow crowd that attended the funeral. Vast crowd packed the church and spilled out into the church yard.

8889

Governor Refuses Appeal For Probe

By L. ALEX WILSON

BELZONI, Miss. — Mississippi's first lynching since 949 occurred here last Saturday when a prominent and ilitant Baptist minister was slain in gangland style.

Close to one thousand persons from all walks of life tended outdoor rites last week for Rev. George W. Lee.

owner of Lee's grocery store printing shop at 230 Hayden a realtor and pastor of four ity churches.

e popular cleric was ambush- and fatally wounded by three gun blasts from another auto crying several times as he ve his car down Belzoni's rch st.

he Federal Bureau of Inves- tion has stepped into the case, NAACP officials stated, and pel- s taken from the minister's body being analyzed in Washing-

n extensive NAACP probe of brutal slaying is being head- by Medgar Evers, of Jackson Mrs. Ruby Hurley, southeast ional secretary of the NAACP. ov. Hugh White turned a deaf upon an NAACP request that "call upon the good people of sissippi to stand up for indi- al rights and denounce the g action."

P GOVERNOR WHITE

NAACP officials declared they pected little help from White

lass Meeting Set t Lynching Scene

JACKSON, Miss. — A state- ide meeting of the Mississippi onference of the NAACP has een called for Sunday, May 22, t Belzoni, scene of the lynch- laying of Rev. George W. Lee. Mrs. Ruby Hurley, southeast egional secretary of the NAACP, aid invitations had been sent ut to the 32 branches of the lississippi NAACP and that undreds were expected to at- end the meeting to demand peedy action in the slaying of he militant minister.

ter the governor boasted he ad been "beseiged" with let- rs from the NAACP over the ars and had never answered en one.

he shocking murder is the west act of violence in Mis- sippi since the formation of the ites Citizens Councils a neo- K group whose basic purpose to force Negro citizens of the te to accept second class citi- nship.

Several persons with information ncerning the incident were re- tant to talk because of fear for eir lives.

The lynching climaxed a series violent acts directed against egroes and designed to discour- e them from seeking voting ghts and integration in public hools.

Vandalistic signs of violence to me began to manifest them- lves three weeks ago when whites broke out the windows of several automobiles owned by Negroes.

A week later glass was broken out of a car occupied by Negro passengers. No action was taken by police or arrests made.

During the same night that the latter incident occurred whites broke into the Elks Rest and wrecked equipment in the place and tore up the check book. Again no action was taken though complaints were made to police.

LEAVE NOTE

The vandals reportedly left a note which read: "You niggers think you will vote but it will never happen. — This is to show you what will happen if you try. (signed) Citizens Councils."

The last lynching in Mississippi occurred in 1949 when Malachi Wright, 45, of Houston, Miss. was shot to death by a group of whites when he did not get out of a road fast enough to satisfy them.

The last prior recorded lynching in the U. S. took place on March 31, 1951 in Winter Garden, Orange county, Florida when Melvin Womack became the innocent victim of a mob which was in search of another man. Womack was forced from his home and beaten to death.

Since 1900 a total of 1,987 lynchings have been recorded in the U. S. One hundred and ninety five of these involved whites and 1,792 involved Negroes.

The method used in the Lee lynching is typical of the new terror tactics being employed by opponents of integration and civil rights in the South. Reliable sources gave the following account of the Lee slaying:

LEE AMBUSHED

About 11:35 p.m. Saturday Rev. Lee was driving north on Church st. at about 10 or 15 miles per hour.

In the second block, a car occupied by whites, pulled up along side the minister's car. Three shots were fired from the car, striking the preacher in the face and neck.

He lost control of his auto and it jumped the curb to the sidewalk traveling about 60 feet, then plowed into the front of a dwelling house.

DROPS ON STREET

Although he was bleeding profusely and weakening fast, Rev. Lee staggered from his car and collapsed. Within a few minutes a taxi cab came along and he was picked up from the street, and placed on the rear seat of the cab.

The minister died there enroute to Humphrey County hospital in Belzoni. He was unable to make a coherent statement before death came.

Reliable sources ruled out robbery. A large sum of money and personal papers were found on Rev. Lee.

In Belzoni, there is not one Negro registered to vote, according to residents.

Two years ago Rev. Lee led a crusade urging Negroes to pay poll tax, register and vote. The state requires that poll tax be paid between December and February for eligibility to register.

A number of citizens went to the courthouse to fulfill this obligation and were permitted to pay the tax. But, according to reliable sources, the date of entry on the tax book was deliberately made incorrect to disqualify those who paid the tax.

A number of poll tax payers have been persuaded to have their names removed from the records. Rev. Lee was one of the leaders who advised against relinquishing this right.

As soon as the report of the slaying reached T. R. M. Howard, head of the Regional Council of Negro Leadership of the state he went into action.

Cong. C. C. Diggs, of Michigan, who delivered an address in Mound Bayou recently at the national meeting of the group was contacted.

A request was made to have the FBI probe the slaying.

PASTORED 4 CHURCHES

Throughout the state, leaders are quietly mapping an all out program to curb further violence in their struggle for citizenship.

Mississippi towns in which Rev. Lee pastored churches included Lexington, Milestown and the city of Jackson.

Late last week no arrests had been made in the slaying or previous waves of vandalism and violence.

Nearly 1,000 persons used almost every type of conveyance to attend the final rites Thursday for Rev. Lee which were held outdoors in front of First Baptist church to accommodate the large crowd. Interment was in Belzoni.

The minister is survived by his wife Mrs. Rosebud Lee.

FBI REPORTS NEGRO KILLED BY BUCKSHOT

Murder Indicated In Death Of Delta NAACP Leader

INQUIRY DELAYED AGAIN

Special to The Commercial Appeal

BELZONI, Miss., May 18.— Lead taken from the face of Rev. G. W. Lee, Negro Baptist minister and a leader here for the National Association for Advancement of Colored People, was buckshot.

Sheriff I. J. Shelton of Humphreys County said Wednesday the report from the Federal Bureau of Investigation showed that the six pieces of lead were buckshot.

Up To Coroner's Jury

Asked if he thought the lead indicated that the anti-segregation leader was murdered, Sheriff Shelton said, "It would look that way, but I'm turning the report over to the coroner's jury. I believe Lee was shot."

The coroner's jury meeting Tuesday was postponed because of the absence of members. The jury is headed by Justice of the Peace J. W. Wampler. Another meeting was set for Wednesday, but had not been held Wednesday night.

Rev. Lee, 51, who died May 7, was first thought to have been the victim of an automobile accident, since he was found in his wrecked automobile. An investigation by a Negro dentist and a physician revealed powder burns on the minister's face.

The investigation indicated that Rev. Lee was shot in the left side of the face.

Rev. Lee had taken an active part in the drive to get Negro residents to register and vote in defiance of a pro-segregation white citizens council.

Have Some Suspects

Meanwhile, Sheriff Shelton said "We have some suspects in the death of Rev. Lee. The suspects are Negroes."

In New York, the United Press reported the national office of the NAACP is waiting complete reports from Mississippi before deciding what action it will take in the case. A spokesman said Mississippi NAACP president Dr. A. H. McCoy had written to President Eisenhower and Atty. Gen. Herbert Brownell Jr., requesting an investigation.

FBI Probing Into Death of Mississippi Leader

BY LOUIS LAUTIER
(Washington Correspondent, Atlanta Daily World and News NNPA)

WASHINGTON — The FBI was reported Wednesday to be making a preliminary investigation into what was termed a new form of lynching in Mississippi to determine whether existing Federal civil rights laws have been violated.

The case, brought to the attention of a Senate Rules Subcommittee Tuesday, involves the shooting to death of the Rev. George W. Lee in Belzoni, Mississippi, in an effort to intimidate colored persons into removing their names from state voting lists.

Federal civil rights statutes make it a federal offense for two or more persons to injure, oppress, threaten or intimidate any citizens in the free exercise or enjoyment of any federally-secured right, the maximum punishment for which is a fine of $5,000 and ten years in prison.

The right to vote is a federally-secured right.

Clarence Mitchell, head of the Washington Bureau of the NAACP, accompanied by J. Francis Pohlaus, counsel for the bureau, told the Senate Privileges and Election Subcommittee, about the murder of the Rev. Lee during his testimony on the bill of Senator Thomas C. Hennings, Jr., Democrat, of Missouri, to revise federal election laws and outlaw corrupt practices in federal elections.

A system has been worked out in Mississippi, Mitchell charged, so that when a colored man pays his poll tax, his employer is informed and threatens to fire the man unless he tears up his poll tax receipt.

Mitchell said he has information from a resident doctor in Mississippi that white men, reported to be members of the Citizens Councils, have systematically intimidated colored persons who have paid their poll taxes and registered.

This doctor informed him, Mitchell testified, that colored persons who had done so were told to have their names stricken from the county voting rolls. Ninety-two of them, including the Rev. Mr. Lee, refused to do so, he said.

About four weeks ago, he testified, a wave of car-windshield breaking began. The cars were owned by colored persons. Although this property destruction continued for about two weeks, Mitchell said, no arrests were made.

He also testified that the Klu Klux Klan was broken into and, after much property was destroyed, a note was left warning that this was what would happen to colored people who try to vote. Mitchell said this note was signed by the Citizens Councils.

Citizens Council are new organizations formed in Mississippi to put economic pressure on colored people in that state to force them to accept continued racial segregation and discrimination.

Quoting his informant, Mitchell testified:

"About midnight May 7, 1955, the Rev. George W. Lee was driving along Church street in Belzoni, Mississippi, when according to witnesses, three white men in a convertible car shot three times and drove off.

Rev. Lee lost control of his car and crashed into a house. He was rushed to a hospital and died on his way.

"I (the informant) assisted the coroner in the post-mortem examination and this is what the examination revealed."

The doctor than went on to give a medical statement, which showed that in his opinion the Rev. Mr. Lee was shot to death from the convertible.

The coroner reported, however, according to the testimony, that the Rev. Mr. Lee was killed because a piece of scantling punched him in the jaw and he died from shock.

The coroner also reported, Mitchell said, that the lead which was found in his face might have come from his teeth rather than a shotgun.

The doctor who gave him the information, Mitchell testified, pointed out that dentists don't use lead.

Mitchell also said that the coroner reported that the noise which sounded like a shotgun could have been three tire-blowouts.

The worst of this, Mitchell said, is that the newspaper stories termed the death of the Rev. Mr. Lee as "a freak accident, a freak death," and the Clarion-Ledger reported "Negro Dies in Odd Accident."

"The Governor, the Attorney General and other officials of that state have said very flatly that if Negroes do not like it down there," Mitchell said, "they had just as well get out and go somewhere else."

Mitchell urged that the Hennings bill be amended by including revised and broadened provisions of existing federal civil rights statutes.

In the 1952 President election, he said, General Eisenhower was portrayed in advertisements in South and North Carolina papers as the candidate who favored segregation, but he has shown that he is President of all the people.

Mitchell added that his leadership in the field of civil rights constitutes a complete and final repudiation of that kind of advertising.

His impression was that the people who were behind that kind of advertising are not residents of the South, Mitchell said, but a great deal of northern money was sent down from New York, Chicago and other places "for the purpose of putting out this scurrilous material."

Rights Leader In Mississippi Ruled Murdered

Belzoni, Miss., May 20 (AP)—A coroner's jury yesterday ruled that a Negro minister, a crusading civil-rights leader, died of a wound, "the cause of which is not clear."

The Rev. G. W. Lee, 51, was found dead in his wrecked car May 7. It was considered a traffic case until a Negro dentist and a physician said the body bore wounds apparently not connected with the crash.

Mr. Lee was a Belzoni leader of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The N.A.A.C.P. charged he was murdered because of his effort to get Negroes to register and vote.

Sheriff J. Shelton said racial tensions had nothing to do with the minister's mysterious death.

Jury's Finding Go To Sheriff In Death Of Negro Preacher

Special to The Commercial Appeal

BELZONI, Miss., May 19.—A coroner's jury ruled here Thursday that a Negro civil rights leader "died from hemorrhage and probable asphyxiation from a wound, the cause of which is not clear."

Justice of the Peace J. W. Wampler said the jury's verdict in the death of Rev. G. W. Lee, Baptist minister, has been turned over to investigating officers headed by Sheriff I. J. Shelton. Justice Wampler said the verdict "is as far as we can go."

"It is up to them (the sheriff's office)," the justice said.

Sheriff Shelton could not be reached for comment Thursday night. He had reported Wednesday that several Negroes were being questioned in connection with the case.

Found In Wrecked Car

Rev. Lee, a leader in the National Association for Advancement of Colored People, died May 7. His dath was first thought to hav been caused by a traffic accident, since he was found in his wrecked automobile.

"However, a subsequent investigation showed that he ha dsuffered head wounds apparently not connected with the accident. The NAACP charged he had been murdered because of his part in a drive to get Negroes to register and vote.

Justice Wampler also released contents of a report from the Federal Bureau of Investigation on fragments found about Lee's face.

The report said three fragments "are most similar in weight and composition to No. 3 buckshot." Three other fragments "although extremely mutilated and deformed" are similar in composition, the report noted.

Justice Wampler said the report stated that "no powder particles (burns) "were found on facial flesh submitted for the tests.

Citizens Council's Letter Sent To Planters

BELZONI, Miss., May 19. — (UP)—A form letter distributed to Delta planters disclosed Thursday that a white Citizens Council attempted to impose an economic boycott on an undertaker who belongs to the NAACP.

The Humphreys County Citizens Council, recently accused of applying "economic pressure" against Negroes who register to vote and advocate integration, recommended that tenant farmers patronize two other undertakers who "meet our standards."

The letter apparently was directed against T. V. Johnson, a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and Belzoni's only Negro undertaker.

When contacted by telephone for comment, Johnson said: "Why don't you come up here and see for yourself?"

The letter said: "As a public service, the Humphreys County Citizens Council has checked Negro undertakers of adjoining counties and have found two in Indianola that meet our standards."

8890

Race Relation Group Urges Gov. Shivers To Avoid "An Emmitt Till" Case In Texas

Informer Sat. 11-12-55 p. 7 Houston Texas

AUSTIN — The Texas Commission on Race Relations at 309 W. 2st street, called on Governor Allan Shivers and Attorney General John Ben Sheppard take steps to avoid an "Emmett Till" case in Texas.

The organization also made an appeal to "fellow Texans, particularly East Texans," to pastors and other men of conscience to demonstrate the Christian and civilized tradition upon which they have been nourished."

The letters to Governor Shivers and Mr Shepperd referred to the slaying of John Carl Reese, a high school boy of the Mayflower Community near Longview.

"We are appealing to editors of newspapers by personal letter to prevent Texas from being faced with a Mississippi Till Case. We are insisting that officers, state and local, must be diligent to bring to justice the perpetrators of this crime and be especially vigilant at this time against other manifestations of insane passion," the organization said.

Following is the letter to Governor Shivers:

November 3, 1955

Hon. Allan Shivers
Governor of Texas
Capitol Station
Austin, Texas

Dear Governor Shivers:

If we are to avoid the infamy of a Mississippi Till Case, the situation of terror and reprisal in East Texas calls for the immediate action by those who are charged with law enforcement in this State.

Justice demands that the State investigate and assist in bringing to trial the night riders who have committed murder and other acts of terrorism in the Mayflower Community, Gregg County.

John Carl Reese was murdered October 22nd by unknown night riding assailants who also shot into a school bus, a school house, a private home and a mailbox. Two houses and a cafe in the community have been shot into on previous occasions.

It is not known at this time whether these acts of terror are intended as reprisals for a bond election to build a school in the Negro community (as school authorities believe), or, whether they may be acts of insane violence by young hoodlums.

However, we must emphasize that they have occurred in an area where there is today an atmosphere permissive of violence created by organized agitation against desegregation of Negro children.

This act of murder, coming shortly after the Texas Supreme Court upheld the Big Spring Decision, has occurred in the vicinity where the so-called "Citizens' Councils" were first organized in our State. Will you therefore order an investigation to find out if this crime is related to the propaganda and agitation of hate by the "Citizens' Councils" movement?

Immediate precautionary steps may prevent the cost to Texas of further acts of violence and loss of prestige. If proper precautionary policy and vigilance had been exercised during the past year by responsible officials, state and local, no such race violence would have occurred against the citizens of Mayflower.

Most Texans are hoping for orderly and harmonious race relations in Texas.

On August 15, 1953 we advised the Attorney General of the danger of this movement and appealed to him for vigilance. Our letter said:

". . . . Such groups, although they may attempt to operate under a cloak of legality, actually give aid and comfort and occasion to illegal acts. In the state of Mississippi where they originated and from which they have now been recently imported into Texas, the Citizens' Councils Movement has been accompanied by acts of the worst form of terrorism. There is no place in a Christian civilized society for the "Citizens' Councils" or any other group dealing in acts of economic or physical reprisals against our citizens, acting within the protection of their rights by the Constitution. We appeal to you in your office to be especially vigilant to these "Citizens' Councils" . . . . . "

Sincerely yours,
Thomas S. Sutherland
Director

P S We have also written the Attorney General today asking his help in stopping this outbreak of terrorism in Texas.

THE TILL CASE.

To the Editor: By your editorial a "Southern Tragedy" one can readily see that you have gone in mourning because of the failure of the grand jury in Leflore County, Mississippi, to bring a true bill against the accused kidnappers of Emmett L. Till. If the people of Mississippi can not dispense justice through the legal channels and according to institutions which are older than our country, what action would you suggest? No law abiding citizen would doubt that the person or persons committing such a crime should be punished according to law, but it is not within the province of The News and Observer to convict citizens of Mississippi or any other state when the duly constituted authorities have decided that they do not have sufficient evidence to prosecute or convict the accused. Would you suggest, as several New York papers did, that U. S. troops be sent to Mississippi to guarantee justice and to blacken the record of our country as was done between 1868-1876?

Why did not The News and Observer consider the Supreme Court decisions on segregation in public schools and other tax supported facilities a great tragedy to the South?

CLAUDE H. MOORE.

Clinton.

27d 1955

8891

Lynching and Stalin Debated by Travelers

By FATHER GEORGES BISSONNETTE

NEW YORK, Aug. 1.—We left Tashkent on an extremely crowded train. Our destination was Samarkand, only 220 kilometers away. But it would take 12 hours. The road bed was so poor speeds over 30 miles an hour are hazardous.

There were three other persons besides my traveling companion, Adalberto Figarolo di Gropello, and myself, in our compartment. We introduced ourselves as "warmongers," then more fully as an American priest and the counselor of the Italian Embassy in Moscow. Our companions were a Russian candidate for a doctorate in history, some kind of railroad inspector and an Uzbeck who turned out to be some kind of schoolteacher, but quite taciturn.

A lively conversation quickly developed. Our candidate in history lent his prestige to the usual charges that in America, lynching was second only to baseball as a national pastime. It took us a good hour to agree that lynching, while definitely not one of the bright spots on the pages of the history of America, was definitely a thing of the past. The railroad inspector brought on the next subject by asking us about Howard Fast's novel, "Spartacus."

Popular With Reds

For those who might not know him, Fast is the author of a series of "historical novels" in which the heroes are presented as forerunners of the "great Communist experiment." The Soviets seemed to have built up Fast as the most popular American author.

He was taken aback when I informed him that Fast's books were not selling too well, that his receiving the Stalin peace prize had not helped these sales and that, in my private opinion, this Fast could not stand on his own feet in the tough game of writing and courted the favors of local Communist parties to assure himself a few readers.

The train stopped and the Uzbek dashed out. He returned, ladden with bread, hard-boiled eggs, salt pork, three small meat pies and two bottles of vodka. The four of us were to be his guests. Gropello and I resolved that the next time, one of us would be the first on the platform, so niggardliness would not be added to the list of unwholesome qualities attributed to the Catholic clergy. These snacks were to be a regular feature of the trip.

As Catholic chaplain to the American Community in Moscow for two years, the Rev. Georges Bissonnette had a rare opportunity to see and study Russia and the Russians. Before his expulsion earlier this year, he traveled many thousands of miles—to the heart of little-known Russian Asia, to the Ukraine, to the Soviet "Riviera." This is the second in a series of 10 articles.

27d 1955

MISSISSIPPI MR. WILLIAM FAULKNER.

8892

Westbrook Pegler Fires At The Wrong Target

WILLIAM FAULKNER, native of Mississippi, is generally regarded as one of America's most distinguished novelists. His works have been so outstanding that in 1949 he was awarded the Nobel prize. As a recipient of this internationally coveted accolate MR. FAULKNER is in the company of such distinguished authors of the past and present as RUDOLPH KIPLING, M. MAETERLINCK, ANATOLE FRANCE, GEORGE BERNARD SHAW, THOMAS MANN, SINCLAIR, LEWIS, JOHN GALSWORTHY, EUGENE O'NEILL, PEARL BUCK, BERTRAND RUSSELL and WINSTON CHURCHILL.

Southern literateurs, educators, statesmen and business men have shown great pride in MR. FAULKNER'S achievements.

It has remained for WESTBROOK PEGLER, who writes a column for a string of newspapers across the country, to undertake to throw a cloud on MR. FAULKNER. He says that this distinguished Southern author's writing, "to the extent of my contact is as filthy as anything ever scrawled on any wall in any language." He followed this with the assertion that the Nobel Prize's "moral and literary standards might well be called up for inspection by the American Nation."

Having read MR. PEGLER'S column occasionally for many years we attribute his strictures on MR. FAULKNER as being due to his limited literary "contacts" and his limited intellectual horizon. For "filthy" writing MR. PEGLER holds the championship as far as our experience goes.

MR. FAULKNER said something in Rome in his capacity of aide to the cultural division of the United States State Department, which offended MR. PEGLER'S attachment to Southern mores and racial discrimination laws. MR. PEGLER expressed the thought that a much more desirable representative of American culture in Rome would be MR. THOMAS R. WARING, editor of the Charleston (S. C.) *News and Courier*. To that suggestion we have a sort of PEGLERIAN opinion. If the State Department wanted to send to Rome an ideological type such as MR. PEGLER espouses, we do not know of a man who would fit the pattern better than MR. WARING, except, perhaps, MR. JACK KILPATRICK, editor of the Richmond *News Leader*.

Faulkner Hits Killing Of Negro, 14 Says It Imperils Survival of U. S.

William Faulkner, Nobel Prize-winning author from Mississippi, in the following dispatch written for The United Press, condemns those responsible for the kidnaping and slaying of Emmett Till, fourteen-year-old Negro boy from Chicago, near Greenwood, Miss. Two white men have been indicted for the slaying.

By William Faulkner

ROME, Italy, Sept. 9.—When will we learn that if one county in Mississippi is to survive it will be because all Mississippi survives? That if the State of Mississippi survives, it will be because all America survives? And if America is to survive, the whole white race must survive first?



Faulkner

Because, the whole white race is only one-fourth of the earth's population of white and brown and yellow and black. So, when will we learn that the white man can no longer afford, he simply does not dare, to commit acts which the other three-fourths of the human race can challenge him for, not because the acts are themselves criminal, but simply because the challengers and accusers of the acts are not white in pigment?

Remembers Pearl Harbor

Not to speak of the other Aryan peoples who are already the Western world's enemies because of political ideologies. Have we, the white Americans who can commit or condone such acts, forgotten already how only fifteen years ago, what only the apanese—a mare eighty million inhabitants of an island already insolvent and bankrupt—did to us?

How then can we hope to survive the next Pearl Harbor, if there should be one, with not only all peoples who are not white, but all peoples with political ideologies different from our arrayed against us—after we have taught them (as we are doing) that when we talk of freedom and liberty, we not only mean neither, we don't even mean security and justice and even the preservation of life for people whose pigmentation is not the same as ours?

And not just the black people in Boer South Africa, but the black people in America too.

Homogeneous Front

Because if we Americans are to survive, it will have to be because we choose and elect and defend to be first of all Americans to present to the world one homogeneous and unbroken front, whether of white Americans or black ones or purple or blue or green.

Perhaps we will find out now whether we are to survive or not. Perhaps the purpose of this sorry and tragic error committed in my native Mississippi by two white adults on an afflicted Negro child is to prove to us whether or not we deserve to survive.

Because if we in America have reached that point in our desperate culture when we must murder children, no matter for what reason or what color, we don't deserve to survive, and probably won't.

World Shocked By Till Trial; Old, Young Leave Mississippi

World P.W. Birmingham, Ala.,
Fri. 9-30-55

By CHESTER M. HAMPTON

The aftermath of the Emmett Till Lynch-Murder trial reverberated all over the Globe this weekend as a watchful world, unanimous in condemnation of Mississippi, voiced its horror.

Naturally, a most immediate reaction was observed in the 'backwoods' Delta section of the state where the brutal lynching occurred. Not waiting on many Negro sharecroppers who vowed to leave the state as soon as the cotton-crop was in, many of the principals in the trial left the area immediately.

Mose Wright, 64-year-old uncle of the murdered boy, gave away his three dogs, sold his chickens and furniture, and headed for Albany, New York where he has been promised a lifetime job with a nursery company.

Although the move was obviously dictated by concern for his safety (he testified that J. W. Milam, one of the chief suspects, threatened that he would never reach the age of 65 if he told of his nephew's abduction), the aged man pledged that he would return to the Leflore County to testify in the kidnaping trial of Milam and his half-brother, Roy Bryant, whose wife is the alleged cause of the mutilation-murder.

CONGRESSMAN DIGGS

Congressman Charles C. Diggs (D., Mich.) stated that he would challenge the right of Mississippi Representatives to take their seats in Congress. He said he would make his challenge on the basis that they were not elected by all of the people since Negroes are disfranchised in many Mississippi localities.

Of more immediate concern to the Congressman, however, was the safety of 18-year-old Willie Reed and Mrs. Mandy Bradley, said to be over 100. He personally moved them to Detroit.

That this was no un-necessary step was borne out by the report that aged Mrs. Bradley (no relation to Mrs. Mamie Bradley, the dead youth's mother) had first decided to spend her few remaining years in her Mississippi home. However, the report continued, a group of white men came to her home late Friday night and she escaped them only by climbing out of a window.

Young Reed, a sharecropper on Milam's farm, testified against his employer when he told the jury of Mississippi farmers that he heard the screams of a human being coming from a barn and saw his employer, Milam, emerge from that barn, gun on hip, to get a drink of water from the well.

VICTIM'S MOTHER SPEAKS

In New York, Monday, Mrs. Mamie Bradley, who positively identified the body of her dead son, told a protest rally that the jury's verdict was a signal to Mississippians that "Lynching is now in order."

"What I saw of the trial was a shame before God and man," she added. The rally was sponsored by a Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.

Also on the program was NAACP Executive Roy Wilkins who asked: "What's to be done about it?"

The chant of "March, March, March" arose from the audience.

"If we marched," Wilkins replied, "We'd lose most of you before you got to South Ferry. It is time to stop being emotional and be smart."

He recommended that Negroes put pressure on the Democratic Party to clean its house in Mississippi.

New York City Councilman Earl Brown declared: "No Negro can hope to be raised as a normal human being in Mississippi." He advocated setting up a Mississippi Refugee Committee to aid Negroes wishing to leave the state.

He also criticized the Federal Bureau of Investigation for its failure to act in the case.

Meanwhile British and French newspapers gave front page display to the "Not Guilty" verdict.

The Rightwing Paris newspaper L'Aurore headlined its front page story "Shameful Verdict At Sumner U.S.A. Two White Assassins of Young Black Acquitted!"

L'Aurore's report on the trial of the accused kidnap-murderers of Emmett Till called the court proceedings "An Awful Comedy."

Paris' Pro-Communist Liberation said the trial "Scandalized All Honest People in America."

France Soir printed a front page picture showing relatives comforting Till's mother after the verdict.

In London newspapers, the Till trial verdict took foreign billing with the Argentina story.

The Daily Mirror gave its Sumner report a three-column head of heavy black type.

German newspapers, however, ignored or gave only very brief reports on the verdict.

Hicks Tells Of Strange Night Calls In Last Till Trial Story

Daily World P. 2
Tues. 10-25-55

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the last of four installments written by Jimmy Hicks giving the background of the Till trial in Sumner, Mississippi. Hicks, a special reporter for the Atlanta Daily World and the National Negro Publishers Association, explains that he is writing now some of the things he dared not write while in Mississippi. The facts he presents explain his position. In the last installment, which appeared in the World last Tuesday, he told how he was arrested and later released on a driving charge.)

Atlanta Daily World 27d

By JAMES L. HICKS

The next day Willie Reed, Randy Bradley and others took the stand and testified. I filed straight copy on their testimony but I was eating my heart out to file copy on the fact that "Too Tight" Leroy Collins was in the Clarendon jail, that Sheriff Strider knew he was there and that he would not produce him.

After they testified, word came that the prosecution was going to close down its argument. I couldn't believe it. How could they close without trying to put Too Tight on the stand.

I went to the Prosecutor General Chatham and asked if it were true. He said it was. I asked him how about "Too Tight"? He said Sheriff Strider told him that Too Tight was not in the Charleston jail. He said he couldn't produce him if the sheriff would not produce him.

I asked him what did he think had happened to "Too Tight." He said, "I wouldn't like to say."

That night, we received information that there was a person in Clarksdale who had been to the jail the day before and talked with Too Tight. The person was at a certain spot, an NAACP official was there, too, and they wanted to know what should be done.

He told the person to be ready to testify the next day. Then we got word to the prosecutors by phone of what we had learned. As tactfully as it could be done, it was pointed out that perhaps Sheriff Strider had been mistaken.

But the next morning the prosecution stated again that despite the fact that someone was willing to go to the jail and identify "Too Tight" he could not go there because the sheriff of the jail had already said he was not there.

NO ONE TALKED TO "TOO TIGHT"

The case actually went to the jury on that note and to this day, no one got a chance to get there and talk to "Too Tight" Collins.

And I believe if either he or Logans could be put on a witness stand they would clear up once and for all the mystery of what they were doing on that truck with Emmett Till and what happened to Emmett Till when he was taken into that barn on the night of August 28.

Perhaps the reader will still condemn me for not dashing off reports on the above story day by day and hour by hour as it happened.

I should like to add these additional facts, unrelated as they might seem:

Daily World P. 2

On the night that I filed my first copy from Sumner, I was in my hotel room at Mound Bayou rather sure that no one in Sumner knew where I was living.

I got a telephone call from Sumner long after midnight. The voice said he was a reporter from Louisiana and that he had met me earlier in the day. When I said I didn't remember him, he said it was not important. That what he really called was for me to go to Memphis with him. He said he was working on a new angle on the story and asked me if I wanted to come along.

He said he realized that Mound Bayou was not on the road to Memphis, but that he was sleepy and would gladly drive out of his way to come by for me if I would agree to go, so that I would help him drive back.

I told him that I couldn't possibly break away to go. When I said that he began asking me how long would I be at my hotel in Mound Bayou. I told him that I was just preparing to leave to go South to Greenville and work on a new lead I had found. He said he could reach Sumner in about a half hour and that he wanted to talk to me. I told him I was leaving right away.

When the conversation ended and I told some of our group what had transpired, a local Mississippian went out to his car, returned to my room and gave me a loaded 38 Smith and Wesson pistol. "Here, boy," he said. "You sleep with this tonight." I did.

About an hour later a car load of people drove up to the side of my motel and knocked on my door.

I lay there with my hand clutching the loaded gun and said nothing. Then they went next door and knocked on the door of Simeon Booker. He did not answer either.

By this time I got up and came to the door. I tested the lock to make sure it was locked and then I began peeping with gun in hand through the three small windows up at the top of the door of my motel.

GROUP WAITING OUTSIDE

Beneath the street light outside, I could see a carload of colored people. I was close to them as 30 feet. The light was playing full upon the face of a colored woman I have never seen before as she sat on the front seat of the car with the door opened.

The man doing the knocking was standing talking with her with his back to me and I could not see his face. I heard him say, "He's not in there."

Then the man walked around the other side of the car still with his face from me and went around the motel to the home of Mrs. Anderson who owns the motel. I crossed the room, still with the gun in my hand, and watched him ring the bell until she answered the door.

Then he left after talking with her a moment and came back to the car parked in front of my door. He got into the car from the driver's side and soon they drove south toward Cleveland.

I went back to bed with the gun under my pillow. The next morning, Mrs. Anderson told me that the people had asked her if she had any vacant rooms. What I couldn't understand and still don't was why they knocked on the door of my motel room instead of first going to the office of the motel.

ANOTHER MYSTERIOUS CALL

On another occasion, Murray Kempton, of the New York Post called me in Mound Bayou. I got his message and called him back. He was not in. But as soon as I hung up, the phone rang for me. A voice at the other end of the wire in Clarksdale said his name was Ferguson and that he knew I called Murray a few minutes ago. The voice said he and Murray were good friends and that I could tell him anything that I was going to tell Murray and that he would pass it on to Murray.

I told the voice that he was on the wrong track, that I had not been calling Murray to tell him anything but that I was simply returning a call which Murray had put through to me from Clarksdale.

The voice insisted, "Come on Hicks You know plenty. Let me in on it." He gave the impression that he was another newsman. I told him I simply did not have any leads to work on and he finally hung up.

The next day in Sumner, I told Murray about the incident. He went to James Featherson and accused Featherson of trying to get me to give him some information under his name.

But the last day of the trial, Featherson came up to me in Kempton's presence and swore that he had never talked with me by phone. I told Murray that the man on the other end had used the name of Ferguson. And in reflection I'm sure that it was not the voice of Featherson.

Who was it? I haven't the slightest idea.

PRESS INTIMIDATION

One more incident. Sheriff Strider gave out press passes which were supposed to enable reporters to use the back stairs which the jury used in getting in and out of the court room to avoid going through the crowd.

The day after I gave the sheriff the name of "Two Tight" Collins, I started up the back steps to go to the courtroom. A deputy was standing on the narrow stairway and as I approached him with card in hand he put one against the wall of the narrow stairway, leaned against the other and barred the way.

I said "Press" and held the card up higher. He said to me, "No N————rs are going up this stairway." I bit my tongue, turned around and started for the front stairs where one had to push his way through the hostile crowd.

On the way, I met John Popham of the Times and I told him what had happened. I also told him how hard it would be to push one's way through the hostile crowd. He suggested that we get together and try to go up.

With Popham leading the way, we went back to the stairs. Several white reporters walked on past the deputy before we reached him.

Then Popham walked past him. I followed. But as I put my foot out to mount the first stair, up came the deputy's foot again and barred the way. Popham who had already passed him turned and said, "He's a reporter, he's got a card. The sheriff said the press could go up this way."

The man snarled at me, "You're not going up this way. Go 'round.

He had a gun. I had no choice. I went around.

I know that this information was given to Strider. But we still never were able to use the back steps.

OTHER INSTANCES

All of these things gradually beat me down at Sumner. A deputy threatened to knock Simeon Booker's "head off" because Booker held up his press card and asked the deputy to help him get through the crowd.

A man who walked up to the press table and called all of us "N——rs" was sworn in five minutes later as a bailiff.

An English correspondent who talked to a colored woman was later fired at twice the same night by the deputy who arrested me.

CROSS BURNED

A cross was burned fifty yards from the courthouse during the trial. There was no investigation that I heard of.

They allotted us chairs at the Jim Crow press table but during the noon recess while we were trying to get our stories filed in a colored restaurant, the crowd would come in and take the chairs from our table. I stood up more often than I sat down.

Congressman Diggs and Dr. Howard brought their own chairs to the Jim Crow press table. On the last day of the trial, the crowd took them.

This was the trial at Sumner as I lived it. Other colored reporters will verify that portion of my story where our paths crossed, and they crossed often. There are other colored reporters who could possibly tell even more fantastic stories. But they are all true.

This was Sumner, USA.

UNBELIEVABLE!

EDITOR'S NOTE—Herewith are reproduced excerpts from an address delivered by AFRO Correspondent James L. Hicks before the Richmond NAACP last Monday.

Mr. Hicks details three fantastic incidents during the trial of Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam for the murder of Emmett Louis Till. The trial was held at Sumner, Miss. Both defendants were acquitted of the murder charge.

THE JUDGE was different from anybody down there. He seemed like an educated man, he acted like one, he performed like one, he talked like one.

I can't say he conducted his court like one because it is true what you have seen, what you heard, what you have read.

They sold beer in the courtroom.

They drank Coca-Colas in the courtroom.

They sat on the witness stand and they smoked cigars on the witness stand.

* * *

THEY USED the word N—r in referring to witnesses. They had no respect for Mrs. Bradley.

One of the things that I noted from the very beginning was that when Mrs. Bradley took the witness stand she was referred to by both the prosecutor and by the defense as "Mamie."

At no time did one of the distinguished lawyers say "Mrs. Bradley."

But it was a different situation when Mrs. Roy Bryant took the stand. When she took the stand it was "Now Mrs. Bryant, Mrs. Bryant."

But every time Mrs. Bradley took the stand it was "Now Mamie this and Mamie that." I can tell you that it wrung your heart out.

ANOTHER SITUATION I noticed in the conduct of the court was the way they handled the witnesses. They had a room outside, back of the courtroom.

Of course that was where the witnesses were kept. They called Willie Reed.

Willie Reed is a man with little education, very, very little.

Not only that, but he is a native born Mississippian who, I suppose, had never been out of Mississippi.

WILLIE REED was in that witness room, scared to death after having more or less, risked everything he had, and then told before he agreed to testify that he was going to leave his home forever and go on away because that was the only way that he could testify in Mississippi and live.

We had to agree to get him out of there after he testified.

He was sitting back there in that room. If you can imagine a room outside of those double doors out there.

* * *

WHEN THE TIME came for him to take the witness stand, they simply said, "Bring in Willie Reed." And the word went back to bring in Willie Reed.

Now, there were no orderly aisles like you have here.

It was more or less like a situation where these chairs, located helter-skelter all over the floor that you would have to start back there at the back and work your way through this center section through these white people —nothing but white people.

* * *

HERE IS AN 18-year-old boy back at the back in a room. He doesn't know what's happening. All he knows is that he is going to testify against a white man.

They stand up here and they say, "Bring Willie Reed in here."

There was not a single court attendant who walked anywhere along that route from the back of that courtroom up to the witness stand with Willie Reed.

I never felt so sorry for anybody in all my life. And sometimes I want to kick myself now for not trying to get up and say, "Willie, I will walk with you."

* * *

BECAUSE HE didn't know. I doubt if he had ever been in a courtroom. That poor boy had to walk from that back room through these hostile white people all the way up.

When he finally got up on the stand, the witness chair was way over here.

There were any number — say 40 or 50 people on the stand. Nobody said to him, "This chair is the witness stand," or "This is your counsel," or "This is the prosecutor" or something like that.

He came up on the stage. He looked around as if he were lost. Somebody pulled the chair back. He walked there, he took a few steps. These were all white people.

FINALLY HE just inched his way over there to that chair and he looked around as if waiting for somebody to tell him to sit down. Finally they told him to hold his hand up, he was sworn in and he sat down.

I never felt so sorry for anybody in all my life.

That was Mississippi justice.

They didn't even extend the usual courtesy of leading the man up to the witness stand.

* * *

SO FAR AS the colored press is concerned, Sheriff Strider finally made up his mind that he was going to let us into the court room.

We had a press conference and he said this: "Down here in Mississippi, we don't mix. I have a press table for N—rs, and I have a press table for white boys. I don't want you N—rs and white boys mixing."

Every morning when Sheriff Strider would walk past the press table, which would be located over here, he would come by and tap on our little card table, and he would say, "Good morning N—rs."

* * *

IT SOUNDS crude, but this is Mississippi. This is where they walk along barefoot. These are the people who go out and beat a 14-year-old boy to death.

Willie Reed took that stand and he testified. He stood up there and he testified that he had been in the yard, near the barn, that he had seen this truck drive up, that the truck went in the barn with J. W. Milam on it, that Emmett Till was on the back of that truck with two other colored persons and went in the barn with three colored men sitting on the back.

Shortly thereafter he heard cries, he heard moans, he heard screams, he heard the voice of Emmett Till crying.

* * *

THEY ASKED him if he heard one lick or two licks.

He said, I heard licks over and over again.

They said how about the screams.

He said they were loud and they got softer and they got softer and they got softer.

They said, how about the licks?

He said the licks kept coming and finally the voice didn't come any more.

* * *

THERE WAS the case where Mrs. Bradley, along with Congressman Diggs, had to actually fight their way through a hostile mob in order to get in the court room.

Mind you, she came down from Chicago as a witness. Somebody asked: Did she have police protection? I said, I told you about Sheriff Strider and how he called you a N—r every time you turned around.

He was the top man there, if you call that police protection. At no time was any officer around to render any kind of assistance to Mrs. Bradley.

Every deputy there was just as hostile as he could be and, I suppose, if she had asked for some help she would have gotten a curt dismissal. They just didn't do it.

* * *

CONGRESSMAN DIGGS came down there.

He couldn't get in. He had sent a telegram to the judge and told him he was coming. When he got there the deputy on the door would not let a United States congressman in.

I just point this out to show you the level of the people in Mississippi.

This man at the door wouldn't let him in. A photographer by the name of Ernest Withers from Memphis came over to our press table, and said:

"Look, Hicks, I think there is a story out there, they won't even let the congressman in."

I got up and went outside.

* * *

CONGRESSMAN DIGGS said 'Hicks, can you get back in?' I said, 'Yes sir.'

He said, 'Will you take my card and take it in to the judge and let him know that I am out here and he will probably get me in.?'

I said, 'I certainly will.'

I came back to the courtroom. I went up on the stand. I got to the baliff of the court. I handed the card to the baliff.

It was plainly written on there "Congressman Charles Diggs of Michigan, 4th Congressional District" as plain as day. With the United States seal right on it.

I said "Congressman Diggs is outside. The deputy on the door does not understand that he is to be let in but he has sent a telegram to the judge but they won't let him in.

* * *

I SAID, 'Would you please take this card to the judge so that he will know he is out there and get him in."

The guy had the card in front of him with the name written plainly on it. He said to me, "What did you say his name was?"

It was written on there as plain as day, but I said, "He is Congressman Diggs and he is one of three colored congressmen of the United States." This man was a baliff for the court in Sumner, Miss.

He turned to a court attendant who was standing nearby and said, "This N—r here says that there is a N–r outside who says that he is a congressman and he wants to get in."

This other one turns and says, "A n—r congressman?"

And the guy said, "That's what this N—r says."

And the other one said, "Is that legal?"

* * *

THIS MAN ASKED his friend was it legal for a colored man to be a congressman in Mississippi.

I point it out because that is the level of the people we are dealing with.

They composed the jury of their peers that acquitted J. W. Milam and Roy Bryant and who probably will do the same thing when they come up for kidnaping.

8895

Was I A 'Marked Man?'

Hick's Every Move Known By Informer Sheriff

(EDITORIAL NOTE: This is the last installment of four stories, giving the behind-the-scene facts in the Till murder case.) Sat. 11-29-55

By JAMES L. HICKS P. 1

They left (and bless them all for having the courage to come), but some of the white reporters remained and continued to ask questions. One picked up a phone on Simpson's desk, called Memphis and began dictating the story to his editor. The story later appeared on the center fold of the Memphis Commericial Appeal. Houston, Texas

WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE: In the first installment James L. Hicks gave hardhitting facts to show that witnesses were in jail, some believed already killed, and some hidden away on plantations, to keep them from testifying in the trial of the murderers of Emmett Till. He tells of going to a church funeral and being mysteriously directed to where he could find the common-law wife of "Too Tight" a key witness, who was then in jail. There is a story of back street roads, "jumping cafe," guarded conversations with "Too Tight's" common-law wife. But Glendora, the home of "Too Tight," got too hot for Hicks and even he had to leave. James L. Hicks has found "Too Tight" and other witnesses hidden away in jail, so that the reporters could not find them; also, many other witnesses hidden off on plantations, where people are not permitted to go to see them or get them off. Some other witnesses have just disappeared completely, no one knows where they are. There follows a cat-and-mouse race with the reporters and Dr Howard trying to find the witnesses, and figure a way to get their testimony available, with the defense doing everything possible to keep the witnesses away. Then there is the struggle between Hicks and Dr Howard over the question of publishing what he knows because Dr Howard is afraid that publication might endanger the witnesses before they can get into safety, meaning those on plantations. Then when Ruby Hurley, NAACP representative, agree with Hicks that it should be published, Dr Howard is piqued and decides to tell all the white reporters, prematurely, and that gets everybody into a dither. James L. Hicks found the frightening conditions in which witnesses were in jail, hidden on plantations, and some had entirely disappeared. Also, the story tells of Dr Howard and the colored reporters scurrying around from place to place to dig up witnesses, who were already frightened to death.

Then Dr Howard made the mistake of telling the white reporters of the various witnesses they had rounded up, and there was a mad scurry to get to the witnesses to bring them to town, with the whites beating the Negroes to them. The result was the witnesses closed up on the whites and also the Negroes. About this time Governor Hugh White of Mississippi took an interest in the case and sent an investigator down from Jackson.

Dr Howard insisted that the only safe thing for the witnesses on the plantation was to put them in protective custody, and there was a mad ride out to pick up these people at night. Said witnesses on the plantations clammed up and many of them were afraid even to move, just being too scared to know what to do. Dr Howard called a lot of white reporters and sheriffs. This put Jimmy on the spot so that they all knew that Jimmy had been getting inside information.

Then followed the story as to how Jimmy was arrested on a trumped-up charge, and was probably saved by the white reporters and the white editor of the local paper standing up for him. Incidentally, the judge was a Linotype operator who worked for this white publisher. The judge, after showing his importance, gave Jimmy a talking to and let him go "this time." Now go on with the story: Informer 9, 17

GIVEN A BREAK

With Simpson talking to the JP, he said to me "Come back here, boy". I went. He took me back to a linotype machine, wiped the ink off his hands, got out a law book and began reading a law to me.

When he finished he told me that under that law he could fine me $300 or give me six months in jail. But he said he was going to "give you a break" and dismiss the case. He asked me if I thought that would be a good break. I told him I certainly did. And then he dismissed the case and told me to "tell all those reporters out there that "we gave you a break". I told him that I would—and I did."

By this time, however, I was getting the general idea that perhaps I was a marked man for during his conversation with me the justice of the peace started telling me where I was staying, what time I got to the trial in the morning, where I parked my car and who I was going to have lunch with that day. (I was going to eat with a local woman who had promised me some more information. She did not show up)".

I haven't the slightest idea how he learned all this.

The next day Willie Reed, Mandy Bradley and others took the stand and testified. I filed straight copy on their testimony but I was eating my heart out to file copy on the fact that "Too Tight" Leroy Collins was in the Charleston jail, that Sheriff Strider knew he was there and that he would not produce him.

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I think he is still there. If he is not there I think Sheriff Strider should be made to tell where he ie.

And I believe if either he or Loggins could be put on a witness stand they would clear up once and for all the mystery of what they were doing on that truck with Emmett Till and what happened to Emmett Till when he was taken into that barn on the night of August 28. Informer

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On the night that I filed my first copy from Sumner I was in my hotel room at Mound Bayou rather sure that no one in Sumner knew where I was living.

I got a telephone call from Sumner long after midnight. The voice said he was a reporter from Louisiana and that he had met me earlier in the day. When I said I didn't remember him he said it was not important. That what he really called for was for me to go to Memphis with him. He said he was working on a new angle on the story and asked me if I wanted to come along.

He said he realized that Mound Bayou was not on the road to Memphis but that he was sleepy and would gladly drive out of his way for me if I would agree to go so that I would help him drive back.

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door opened.

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Then he left after talking with her a moment and came back to the car parked in front of my door. He got into the car from the driver's side and soon they drove south toward Cleveland.

I went back to bed with the gun under my pillow. The next morning Mrs Anderston told me that the people had asked her if she had any vacant rooms. What I couldn't understand and still don't was why they knocked on the door of my motel room instead of first going to the office of the motel.

On another occasion Murray Kempton of the New York Post called me in Mound Bayou. I got his message and called him back. He was not in. But as soon as I hung up the phone rang for me. A voice at the other end of the wire in Clarksdale said his name was Fergusson and that he knew I had

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On the way I met John Popham of the Times and I told him what had happened. I also told him what a loaded thing it was to push one's way through the hostile crowd. He suggested that we get together and try to go up.

With Popham leading the way we went back to the stairs. Several white reporters walked on past the deputy before we reached him.

Then Popham walked past him. I followed. But as I put my foot out to mount the first stair, up came the deputy's foot again and barred the way. Popham, who had already passed him turned and

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The man snarled at me "You're not going up this way. G 'round." He had a gun. I had no choice. I went around.

I know that this information was given to Strider. But we still never were able to use the back steps.

All of these things gradually beat me down at Sumner. A deputy threatened to knock Simeon Booker's "head off" because Booker held up his press card and asked the deputy to help him get through the crowd.

A man who walked up to the press table and called all of us "niggers" was sworn in five minutes later as a bailiff.

An English correspondent who talked to a colored woman was later fired at twice the same night by the deputy who arrested me.

A cross was burned fifty yards from the courthouse during the trial. There was no investigation that I heard of.

They allotted us chairs at the Jim Crow press table but during the noon recess while we were trying to get our stories filed in a colored restaurant the crowd would come in and take the chairs from our table. I stood up more often than I sat down

Congressman Diggs and Dr Howard brought their own chairs to the Jim Crow press table. On the last day of the trial the crowd took them.

This was the trial at Sumner as I lived it. Other colored reporters will verify that portion of my story where our paths crossed, and they crossed often. There are other colored reporters who could possibly tell even more fantastic stories. But they are all true.

This was Sumner, USA.

Hicks Arrested During Trial

In Till Lynch-Murder Case

World
Fri. 10-21-55

(EDITOR'S NOTE: In the previous article, Jimmy Hicks told of how he and other Negroes discovered two witnesses who were reportedly on the truck with Emmett Till on the morning of his death. The article ended with plans to get these witnesses but it seems that these plans were revealed prematurely and to some persons who were sympathetic to the defendants).

Birmingham, Ala.

(Installment No. 3)

By JAMES L. HICKS

With the trial recessed, we then went back to Mound Bayou. The meeting place with the witnesses was in Cleveland and we were to be there at dark.

P.1

When darkness fell, I went to the meeting place. There I met a man who told me to park my car and get into his car. Then he drove me to a house which turned out to be the real meeting place.

I later learned that this is the way they do it down there. They announce one place as the site. But when you arrive there, it is really not the bona fide place. If you are the right person, you are taken from there to the meeting place. If you are not no one will admit knowing what you are talking about.

Fantastic! It seems that way. But you have to live in Mississippi under the threat of its violence to learn what people like Ruby Hurley and other NAACP leaders have learned.

When I arrived at the other house, I found Ruby and Newsome safe but they had a sad story to tell.

During the afternoon, the authorities notified by the white reporters had gone to the plantation ahead of them and questioned the prospective witnesses. This had scared them to death and they felt that we had gone back on our promise to get them out of there before telling the white people.

WITNESSES BALK

The result was that they not only clammed up to the whites, but they refused to come to the meeting with us.

We didn't know exactly what to do then. A call came from Porteaus saying that he was on his way down with the sheriffs of the various counties, a special investigator sent by the Governor and other officials, and we had no witnesses to produce.

We went on, however, to the meeting place with the white authorities and Dr. Howard who met them told them of how they had jumped the gun and what it meant.

P.2

He also pointed out the danger that the witnesses would be in when the story broke and he asked that they be taken off the farms and placed in protective custody. The various sheriffs and county supervisors, all of whom were there, said they did not feel the people involved were in any immediate danger, but they said if Dr. Howard thought so, they would go get them and bring them to Mound Bayou for safe keeping.

Wire

Thus at midnight, we sat there in an insurance office with the following law officials of Mississippi, T. J. Townsend, prosecutor of Sunflower County; Gwin Cole, who had been flown to the trial that day on orders by Governor Hugh White as soon as the new evidence was presented; Sheriff George Smith of LeFlore County; District Attorney Stannie Sanders of Sunflower County and John Ed Cothran, chief deputy of Sunflower County. They said the Governor was interested in the case and they wanted to do anything Dr. Howard and the group suggested.

GO AFTER WITNESSES

Dr. Howard insisted that the only thing to do was to go right then and get the people off the plantation. The law officials said they could not force them to leave but that they could take us out there and let us talk to them and bring those out who wanted to come.

Things happened fast after that. The various sheriffs said they would go get people in their own counties and before one could say Jack Robinson cars were moving out in all directions.

Some key people of Mississippi who were in on the meeting but who still cannot be identified got into the cars with the sheriffs. These people were the contact people with the people on the plantation.

Various reporters took off after various sheriffs in cars of their own. As for me, I started out behind the sheriff who was to bring in Willie Reed.

He went through Mound Bayou like a streak and turning right at the dirt road leading toward Drew, I hit the dirt road behind him.

Now its simply a part of this fantastic story to state that at times on that little dirt road leading out of Mound Bayou that I was travelling in the dead of night at times at 70 miles an hour!

It's fantastic but true.

But even at that speed, I lost the sheriff and decided to go on then to County Supervisor Townsend's office at Drew where all the witnesses picked up by the various sheriffs were to be brought before being taken to Mound Bayou.

We overtook Simeon Booker and Clark Porteous and Featherston. They, too, had chased a sheriff and got lost in the Mississippi dirt road. The five of us then went to Townsend's office.

BRINGS IN YOUNG

As we arrived there, a white woman drove up in a car and a colored man got out. This proved to be Frank Young one of the key witnesses in the case who never testified. The sheriff in that county had simply called the plantation owner on which Young worked and told her to bring Young in.

Dr. Howard was to have followed us to Drew to be there when the witnesses were questioned but for some reason he was delayed and though Young had talked freely before this, he refused to talk to anyone but Dr. Howard.

We waited a long time and then the white woman who had brought him in grew tired and she took Young back to the plantation, promising to have him in court the next day. Young never took the witness stand. They told me he came to the court and could not find the courtroom and went back. I never did get the straight of this.

One of the sheriffs had taken a colored minister with him to get Mandy Bradley. About two o'clock in the morning, they returned without Mandy. Moses Newsome, a reporter who had ridden in the sheriff's car with the minister and the sheriff said the sheriff had driven to the house, sent the minister in to talk with Mrs. Bradley and see if she would come to Mound Bayou.

She is said to have told him that she would not. That she did not know anything about the case. But later the same woman did testify in the case and has now left her native Mississippi and is in Chicago. I can only believe that the events of the day and night had frightened her nearly to death.

The various sheriffs talked to other witnesses but were able to get none to come forward that night. Finally in the early hours of the morning, we went back to Mound Bayou over the lonely back road.

I AM PUT ON SPOT

There is one point which I should mention here that I feel had a direct bearing on my future activity with the trial.

During the meeting at Mound Bayou with the various sheriffs, one of them asked Dr. Howard what were the names of the two men who had been seen on the truck with Emmett Till. At this point only, Dr. Howard and the sheriffs were in the room together and reporters were waiting outside.

But at this point, Dr. Howard in a loud booming voice called out 'Send Jimmy Hicks in here." I went into the room and before all those sheriffs and other officials of Mississippi, many of whom I did not trust, he pointed to me and said, "This is Jimmy Hicks of the Afro-American papers. He has talked with the people who know "Too Tight." Hicks what is Too Tight's real name and what is the name of the man who was on that truck with him?"

I didn't want to answer. I didn't want to enter into the trial that way whatever. But I couldn't let Dr. Howard down before all those people and I knew I was the only one who had the answer. So I said "Too Tight's real name is Leroy Collins and the other man is Henry Lee Loggins."

All their eyes were upon me as I left the room. And I got a funny feeling that the finger might also be on me, too.

Back at the Mound Bayou hotel my colleagues were even more insistent that I lighten up on the type of story I was filing through Western Union.

NEWS GET OUT

From that point on it seemed that everyone in the courthouse knew what I had written the moment I filed it. I am not accusing Western Union. I do not believe that the operators were willfully letting anyone read my copy.

But the Western Union ticket was set up in the hallway of the courthouse and many of the local people had never seen one work. Those who could not get into the courtroom, made it a habit to crowd around the open phones and the Western Union desk and listen to reporters call in their stories on special wires set up for them.

It was very easy for them to also look over the shoulder of the Western Union operator and see what he was filing.

The owner of the only colored phone in Sumner told me himself that the white people listened in on everything said on his phone so I ruled that one out with the exception of a few calls to my office during which time I never once said what part I was playing in the trial.

While I was debating on whether to just sit down and tell it all, an incident happened which caused me to finally agree not to file what I was seeing and doing.

I AM ARRESTED

I drove to the trial at nine o'clock Wednesday morning and sat through the trial until it recessed at 1:30. Then I started to my car parked in front of the court house. As I reached the car with the key in my hand to get a notebook out of the car, a white man stepped off the curb and said to me, "Boy, is this your car." When I answered that it was, he snatched the key from my hand and said, "You come with me down to the Mayor's office."

I was never so shocked in my life, but when I saw his gun I decided that I'd better go along.

I began walking with the man to the "mayor's office," neither of us said a word. But, oh, how I was thinking! I felt at the start that Sheriff Strider, whom I simply do not trust, had got wind of my activity in tracking down Too Tight and I figured that I might be stuck away in some jail and given a good going over until after the trial.

We walked a half block and turned into the offices of the Sumner Sentinel. Inside the door stood Featherson, the Jackson, Mississippi reporter, who had work-

the witnesses with us virtually all night the night before.

Featherson said to me, "Hi Hicks, how you doing?" I said to him, "Not so good. Looks like I'm in trouble."

He said "what's the trouble?" and I asked him to ask the deputy who had brought me in. All the deputy would tell him was that Sheriff Strider had ordered him to pick me up.

"I'll never forget Featherston. He told the deputy, 'Look, I'm from Jackson, Mississippi. I know this boy. He's all right. You must have the wrong man. This boy is down here covering the trial." The deputy ignored him.

EDITOR COMES TO AID

About that time, Simpson, editor of the Sentinel came in. And I was glad that he had been the first man I had gone to when I hit town.

Simpson, like Featherston, greeted me warmly and asked how things were going. I told him I was under arrest but did not know the charges. Simpson then aggressively demanded of the deputy what he was holding me for. When he refused to tell him, he said, "Well, by God, let's get the sheriff over here and see. This man is here to cover the trial. Every reporter speaks highly of him because I checked up on him." He then ordered someone in his office to go get the sheriff who was in the courthouse across the street.

THINKS UP CHARGES

But instead of the sheriff coming back, about 40 newsmen hit the door of the Sentinel.

Their nose for news had already sniffed a new story and they were there to check on it and I was glad to see them there.

It was then and only then that the deputy suddenly realized that he knew the charges against me. He said, "He's charged with passing a standing school bus!"

Simpson exploded. "School bus," he said. 'For goodness sakes' turn that man loose You're getting ready to give this town the biggest black eye it has ever had."

He then turned to what I later found was the justice of the peace who "tried" my case—the linotype operator in Simpson's printing plant!

Simpson suggested to the linotype operator that he dismiss the charges but the linotype operator who was then talking to his boss, said, "This is my case and I'm going to try it."

I saw then that here was a little man who wanted to show his importance and I was so relieved that it was a traffic charge and nothing else that I buzzed the colored press that I was OK and could pay the fine and that I think I'd get off better if they left and made it appear that no one was putting any pressure on the little justice of the peace.

They left (and bless them all for having the courage to come) but some of the white reporters remained and continued to ask questions. One picked up a phone on Simpson's desk, called Memphis and began dictating the story to his editor. The story later appeared on the center fold of the Memphis Commercial Appeal.

With Simpson talking to the JP, he said to me "Come back here boy." I went. He took me back to a linotype machine, wiped the ink off his hands, got out a law book and began reading a law to me.

GIVES ME A "BREAK"

When he finished, he told me that under that law he could fine me $200 or give me six months in jail. But he said he was going to "give you a break "and dismiss the case. He asked me if I thought that would be a good break. I told him I certain., did. And then he dismissed the case and told me to "tell all those reporters out there that "we gave you a break." I told him that I would—and I did.

By this time, however, I was getting the general idea that perhaps I was a marked man for during his conversation with me the justice of the peace started telling where I was staying.

(End of Installment No. 3)

Hicks says Pro-American U.S. ought to act now

Baltimore Md. Jan. 11-19-55

By JAMES L. HICKS

GREENWOOD, Miss. — The failure Wednesday of a 20-man all-white jury to indict Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam on charges of kidnaping Emmett Till may turn the cold war, now going on between colored and white in the South, into a shooting war in which colored people will fight back for the first time.

This statement is based on a careful study by this reporter of the deep, dark feelings between the two races, while covering the Sumner murder trial and in talks with both sides during days leading up to the kidnaping indictment proceedings.

With the full realization of what I'm saying, I'm forced to report that the attitude of the colored man in Mississippi today is "I've had enough." — I cannot, and I will not stand for any more."

And, since my talks with white people left the definite impression that they plan no serious steps to stop their reign of terror, one can only conclude that if both races mean what they say (and I believe they do) the grand jury's action in failing to indict could be the straw that could break the camel's back.

* * *

THE GRAND jury, after hearing the testimony of four witnesses, Moses Wright, Willie Reed, Sheriff George Smith and Deputy John Cothran, voted Wednesday not to indict the two white men, even though it had before it the testimony of the men themselves that they took the boy from Mose Wright's home on Aug. 28.

It is a matter of record that during the murder trial both Sheriff Smith and Deputy Cothran testified that Milam and Bryant told them that they took the boy from his uncle's home and Mose Wright said they did it at gunpoint.

District Attorney Stannie Sanders said the grand jury deliberated three hours Wednesday before refusing to indict the two white men.

* * *

NO ONE CAN question his word because reporters were not permitted into the jury room. But it is difficult in the light of evidence to figure out just what they could have been deliberating on.

Failure of the grand jury to indict means that the white people of Mississippi have completed one of the most heinous crimes in the annals of any American state and got away with it without a single finger of the law being raised against anyone.

For no matter what evidence is turned up at this point—no matter what cowardly witnesses belatedly come forward to testify—Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam will never again be tried for the kidnaping or the murder of Emmett Till.

BUT THERE IS a point beyond which the most patient of men will not go. And I can report that in the cotton fields of Mississippi, in the large cities and in the small towns, I have found the most patient of colored men rapidly reaching the breaking point.

Over and over again I have been met with the expression: "They got away with murder at Sumner. If the law doesn't do something about the kidnaping at Greenwood, it looks like we'll have to just start taking care of ourselves."

These words were not spoken to me by professional rabble-rousers or left wingers trained in the art of creating confusion and disorder.

* * *

ON THE contrary, they were uttered to me often in bad, broken English in the language of the sharecropper, the cotton picker, or the "houseboy," who works in the white man's home.

No one ever stated definitely what he might do—or what he wanted to do. The last thing a colored man in Mississippi wants to talk about is an open war with white folk.

But after the Sumner acquittal and even more so during the indictment proceedings, the line became more and more pronounced: "We've got to start taking care of ourselves."

The most outspoken critics of the situation in Mississsippi are the colored women. They enjoy more freedom than their men folk and more and more they are speaking out against the failure of their men to act.

* * *

FOR EXAMPLE, every colored woman I talked with in Mississippi was critical of Mose Wright for permitting the two white men to come into his home and take the Till boy in the first place.

They express admiration for Wright's courage in coming back and testifying. But, at the same time, they say openly "He should have killed them both when they broke into his home."

And when you tell them that Mose himself might have been killed if he resisted, they inevitably say, "Everybody's got to die sometime."

This kind of talk, of course, is goading to the colored men. And most of them will not say much. But if you ask them what their actions would have been, they generally say, "A man has a right to protect his family."

WHEN THE verdict was announced, I called 18-year-old Willie Reed in the safety of his Chicago home. Said Willie: "It just isn't fair. Nobody down there treats a colored man fairly. The only way he will ever get fair treatment down there is to take it for himself."

These were strong words from peaceful non - educated Willie Reed, but it shows that even Willie has a breaking point.

No one hopes more than this this writer that the end has come for this type of thing in Mississippi. But no one feels stronger than this writer that if the end has not come the next Till incident will see the colored people of Mississippi write a new ending to the script.

If there ever was a time the Federal government is needed to step in and cool off a hot situation, that time is now—in Mississippi.

Rumor FBI May Intervene

Informer # 20

JURY "NO BILLS" TILL KIDNAPPERS

District Atty Says "Case Is Closed"

Houston Post
Sat. 11-19-55

J W Milam, 36, and Roy Bryant, 24, two white men who were acquitted in the murder of 16-year-old Emmett Till, were no-billed by a Leflore grand jury Wednesday on a charge of kidnapping the Chicago youth. However, rumors are the federal authorities have entered the case to determine if there is a violation of Till's civic rights. District Attorney Stanny Sanders of Leflore County is quoted as saying "As far as I know, the case is closed."

By JAMES L HICKS

GREENWOOD, Miss — Ailing Willie Reed and aging Moses Wright returned to terror-stricken Mississippi, Monday, to again point accusing fingers at Roy Bryant and J W Milam, this time as the kidnapers of Emmett Till.

The two men, who fled this state in fear after accusing Milam and Bryant of murdering the Chicago youth, arrived in Jackson by train Sunday night and came to Greenwood with Mrs Ruby Hurley, NAACP field secretary to give testimony to the grand jury.

TWO KIDNAPPING LAWS

In addition to the testimony given by Reed and Wright, Leflore County Presecutor Stannie Sanders advised the grand jury that Mississippi had two kidnapping laws under whch a kidnapping indictment can be presented.

Under the first law, the jury may set a death penalty or give life imprisonment. Under the second law, the jury can fix a maximum punishment of 10 years in prison.

As the grand jury met for the indictment there was not as much tension in Greenwood as there had been at the end of the murder trial in Sumner, but it was gradually building up.

Ninety-five miles away at Jackson, the NAACP State Conference held a three-day meeting beginning Friday and speaker after speaker, including Thurgood Marshall, lambasted the mockery of the murder trial.

Elsewhere on the Mississippi front, rumors were flying thick and fast. The name of "Two Tight" Collins was injected into the news again by none other than J W Milam, one of the defendants in the murder trial.

Milam charged in a statement to a white daily newspaper that a Chicago newspaper had failed to return Too Tight to Mississippi and said he now believes that Too Tight has met wth foul play.

The newspaper has stated that it sent Collins back to Mississippi on October 10 after he declared that he was not on the truck the morning Till was murdered.

WITNESS SAW BOTH MEN A WEEK AGO

But despite Milam's statement that Too Tight is missing, this reporter, Saturday, talked with a woman who stated that she saw Milam and Too Tight together a week ago at a cotton gin in Webb (Miss.), not far from the Milam farm.

The name of Henry Lee Logan, the other colored man believed to have been on the truck with Emmett Till the day of his death, also came back to haunt reporters who covered the murder trial.

Logan, who has refused to tell what he knows about the case, was scheduled to have been spirited out of the state Saturday night into Missouri where he was to "tell all" to a weekly newspaper.

The paper, through an intermediary, provided money for the trip and Logan is reported to have gone to the point of going to the home of his mother to say goodbye.

But at the home his mother broke down, made him change his mind, and he is reported now to be refusing to talk with anyone about the case. Both Logan and his wife work for J W Milam.

DR HOWARD THREATENED

This was the general picture as the indictment was sought:

Dr T R M Howard has received a threatening letter with the picture of himself enclosed. On the picture the writer of the letter smeared the doctor's head with a red substance resembling blood and also painted a bloody smear over his eyes and heart.

The letter, mailed from Cleveland (Miss.), six miles from the doctor's home, said, "You'll get what Till got if you don't shut up." Dr Howard was undaunted, but his pretty wife is beginning to show effects of the strain.

In the cotton lands, white business men are telling colored that next year they had better look to Dr Howard and the NAACP to finance their crops because the white people will not do it for them.

Some indication of the feeling on both sides can be gained from an incident which happened at Drew about 10 miles from Mound Bayou.

COTTON GINNERS MELEE

Colored and white persons were in line to get their cotton ginned when a white man drove his truck ahead of a colored man who was next in line.

The two men got into a fight; the white man seized a rifle, the colored mn took it away from him but while they wrestled over it, the white man pulled the trigger three times in an effort to shoot the colored man.

When the colored man took the rifle, the whites stopped the fight. The colored man left but returned and got his cotton ginned without further incident.

These incidents, in addition to the murder of a 12-year-old youth about 100 miles north of here, just about has everyone back on edge as the indictment is expected to be handed up.

Hicks Tells Why He Went Back To Miss. For Emmett Till Hearing

Daily World

JAMES L. HICKS

NEW YORK, N. Y.— (NNPA) — During the Emmett Till murder trial at Sumner Mississippi I was humiliated, insulted and finally arrested for my activity along with other reporters in trying to round up witnesses for the prosecution.

When the announcement was made public, my wife, my mother many of my close friends and many readers whom I have never met warned me in phone calls, personal messages and through letters to my paper, telling me not to go back to Mississippi.

Thurs. 11-17-55

When I told them that I was going back, many of them asked me why. Some said I was either foolishly trying to get my neck broken or I was making a grandstand play for a few readers.

Atlanta Ga.

I think it is only fair that I now tell WHY I went back to Mississippi.

I think that I should begin saying that my editors did not SEND me back. On the contrary, one of the letters I have earmarked for my scrapbook, is one from my executive offices in Baltimore telling me of the kidnapping indictment proceedings which were taken then coming up and stating that the paper would have a reporter down there to cover it.

Daily World

The letter expressed an awareness of the difficulty I had gone through on the murder trial and then left it up to me as to whether I would be the reported assigned to go back.

I answered the letter and asked for the assignment. I got it and I went back. I went back for a number of reasons.

P. 6

The first reason I went back is because I felt I HAD to go back to Mississippi if I were going to continue in my work as a newspaperman. You see, the white people of Mississippi actually frightened me during the Sumner murder trial. I have denied it — I was scared all the time I was there and I was very very happy when it was all over and I could get out of there.

Now the mere fact that I was frightened during the murder trial didn't worry me too much. I've been scared before on assignments such as Korea and the second atomic bomb explosion.

But the thing that really did worry me was the fact that I was still frightened and scared when I LEFT Mississippi. There's a big difference. In Korea I was scared when there was a break through by the enemy or when a mortar fell too close to me—but always when that particular phase of the attack was over I felt the same again.

But in Mississippi the difference was that I became frightened while there and remained frightened up to the very moment that I left there.

It was only when I got back and realized this that I also realized that I had to go back to Mississippi.

To me it was just like being frightened on an airplane when something goes wrong and finally getting back on ground alive. I have a feeling that if you don't get back on a plane at your earliest opportunity you may never get on another one because of your fear.

I recall once being on a Pan American Stratocruiser which caught fire ten minutes after we left Honolulu enroute to Korea. Flames engulfed the plane while we were in the air and it seemed a miracle that the pilot was able to get us back to Honolulu without all of us getting killed.

But we did get back safely and they reparied the plane in two days. On the third day when they announced to the 60 passengers that the plane was ready to take off again, only 20 of the 60 agreed to get back on it. Some caught boats and others said they would wait for at least another plane.

I was scared—but I was one of the 20 who got back on the same plane. A white correspondent who was traveling with me at the time decided he would catch a boat. He did. I see him every day here in New York now. But he has never been on another plane. He openly says now that he's just too scared to do so after the Honolulu incident.

I believe that if he had got back on that plane with the other 20 of us he would still be flying today. And he needs to fly in his job.

I thought of him when I decided to go back to Mississippi. The way I look at it Mississippi and the Till case is just ONE of a series of such racial incidents and outbreaks which are certain to pop up all over the South in the immediate future as integration is stepped up.

And every such incident should, and must be covered by the colored press. You can't get around it. Somebody has got to be there to tell the world whats going on. Who is better qaulified to do this than a colored reporter.

And I'm a colored reporter.

I felt I had to go back to Mississippi if I intended to keep on being a colored reporter.

The second reason I went back also personal. I just didn't want to admit to myself that I was actually afraid to go to any part of this country for which I gave blood, sweat and tears during the last war.

I'm an American and Mississippi is still a part of America though many white people down there refuse to act like it. I just didn't want to admit to myself the flag that I followed and fought for, the flag that I love and respect, would not be with me in any part of America.

So I asked to go back.

My return trip was not a rewarding one. If I had doubts on the first trip about Mississippi being in complete defiance of the US flag, all the doubt was erased by my second trip. I know now that the state of Mississippi is already in complete rebellion against all the ideals of Americanism which I have been taught to love and respect.

But I have one satisfaction as the result of my second visit.

I'm not afraid of Mississippi anymore.

"It was just like getting back on that plane the second time. Today I'm not afraid to ride anything that soars through the air and if and when they get rockets to the moon I'm going to ask to be in the first group of reporters who fly up there.

And the same thing goes for Mississippi.

I've now seen the white people down there for what they really are a group of cowardly baby murders who operate in the still of night only at times when the odds are weighted in their favor.

And I'm not afraid of them anymore. I'll go back to Mississippi to cover a baby murder, a race riot or the annual convention of the White Citizens Council.

I went back, I'm glad I went back and I'll go back again and again as long as its a part of America.

And if Mississippi tries to secede—I'll be among the first to volunteer to pick up a gun and go back down there and help whip them back into the Union.

I'm not afarid anymore!

Hicks Is Going Back

Report new lynching as Till trial nears

Afro-American

Pat. 11-3-55

MONEY, Miss. — The AFRO's ace reporter, James L. Hicks, will return here Monday, Nov. 7, when Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam, the two confessed abductors of Emmett Louis Till are scheduled to go on trial on kidnaping charges.

In the wake of the trial came reports from Lamar, Miss., about 90 miles from here, of the lynching of another child, 12-year-old Timel Hudson.

Hudson's mutilated body was found near the home of a white farmer, where he had worked as a farm hand. The boy's head had been crushed and three ribs and an arm broken.

Baltimore

THERE WAS no apparent motive for the lynching, but neighbors pointed out that "it might have been because he was quite friendly with a little white girl on the farm."

The youth had been living with relatives while working on the farm. His mother, Mrs. Emma Dowdy, lives in Memphis.

His body was discovered by his grandmother, Mrs. Ella B. Flemmon, who at first did not identify it as that of her grandson. It was only after taking a second look that she recognized him.

* * *

MRS. FLEMMON said that the boy had found a dollar bill in the field and said that "nobody was going to take it away." The money was still in his pocket when he was found.

A coroner's hearing is slated this week at Holly Springs, the county seat.

* * *

MR. HICKS, who deserted his reporter's role to become detective during the murder trial of Bryant and Milam, incurred the enmity of defense lawyers when he found several new witnesses for the state.

The all-white jury at Sumner, nevertheless, acquitted the two men after a brief deliberation.

The two men have already admitted taking young Till from his uncle's home, but claimed that they just "took him out, frightened him, but left him unharmed."

The uncle, Mose Wright, now living in Detroit, has indicated that he will return to Mississippi to appear as the state's principal witness.

The AFRO learned Friday that Thurgood Marshall, the NAACP's special counsel, will also attend the trial as an observer.

Strange Things Happen As Till Trial Nears End

This is the fourth and final chapter of James L. Hicks' "True Story of the Till Trial." In the three earlier installments, Hicks, ace reporter for the National Newspaper Publishers association, of which THE CALL is a member, told how witnesses who had first-hand information about the abduction and slaying of young Emmett Till were placed in jail to prevent them from testifying at the trial and how other witnesses were made to fear for their lives when word got out that they planned to testify.

By JAMES L. HICKS

The next day Willie Reed, Mandy Bradley and others took the stand and testified. I filed straight copy on their testimony but I was eating my heart out to file copy on the fact that "Too Tight" Leroy Collins was in the Charleston jail, that Sheriff Strider knew he was there and that he would not produce him.

After they testified, word came that the prosecution was going to close down its argument. I couldn't believe it. How could they close without trying to put "Too Tight" on the stand?

I went to the Prosecutor Gerald Chatham and asked if it were true. He said it was. I asked him how about "Too Tight." He said Sheriff Strider told him that "Too Tight" was not in the Charleston jail. He said he couldn't produce him if the sheriff would not produce him.

I asked him what did he think had happened to "Too Tight." He said, "I wouldn't like to say."

That night, we received information that there was a person in Clarksdale who had been to the jail the day before and talked with "Too Tight." The person was at a certain spot, an NAACP official was there, too, and they wanted to know what should be done.

Maybe Sheriff Mistaken

He told the person to be ready to testify the next day. Then we got word to the prosecutors by phone of what we had learned. As tactfully as it could be done, it was pointed out that perhaps Sheriff Strider had been mistaken.

But the next morning the prosecution stated again that despite the fact that someone was willing to go to the jail and identify "Too Tight" he could not go there because the sheriff of the jail had already said he was not there.

The case actually went to the jury on that note and to this day, no one got a chance to go there and talk to "Too Tight" Collins.

I think he is still there. If he is not there, I think Sheriff Strider should be made to tell where he is.

Could Clear Mystery

And I believe if either he or Loggins could be put on a witness stand, they would clear up once and for all the mystery of what they were doing on that truck with Emmett Till and what happened to Emmett Till when he was taken into that barn on the night of August 28.

Perhaps the reader will still condemn me for not dashing off reports on the above story day by day and hour by hour as it happened.

I should like to add these additional facts, unrelated as they might seem:

On that night that I filed my first copy from Sumner, I was in my hotel room at Mound Bayou rather sure that no one in Sumner knew where I was living.

A Midnight Call

I got a telephone call from Sumner long after midnight. The voice said he was a reporter from Louisiana and that he had met me earlier in the day. When I said I didn't remember him, he said it was not important, that what he really called was for me to go to Memphis with him. He said he was working on a new angle on the story and asked me if I wanted to come along.

He said he realized that Mound Bayou was not on the road to Memphis, but that he was sleepy and would gladly drive out of his way to come by for me if I would agree to go, so that I would help him drive back.

I told him that I couldn't possibly break away to go. When I said that he began asking me how long would I be at my hotel in Mound Bayou. I told him that I was preparing to leave to go South to Greenville and work on a new lead I had found. He said he could reach Sumner in about a half hour and that he wanted to talk to me. I told him I was leaving right away.

Protection For The Night

When the conversation ended and I told some of our group what had transpired, a local Mississippian went out to his car, returned to my room and gave me a loaded .38 Smith and Wesson pistol. "Here, boy, he said, "You sleep with this tonight." I did.

About an hour later a car load of people drove up to the side of my motel and knocked on my door.

I lay there with my hand clutching the loaded gun and said nothing. Then they went next door and knocked on the door of Simeon Booker. He did not answer either.

By this time I got up and came to the door. I tested the lock to make sure it was locked and then I began peeping with gun in hand through the three small windows up at the top of the door of my motel.

Beneath the street light outside, I could see a carload of colored people. I was as close to them as 30 feet. The light was playing full upon the face of a colored woman I have never seen before as she sat on the front seat of the car with the door opened.

Couldn't See Face

The man doing the knocking was standing talking with her with his back to me and I could not see his face. I heard him say, "He's not in there."

Then the man walked around the other side of the car still with his face from me and went around the motel to the home of Mrs. Anderson who owns the motel. I crossed the room, still with the gun in my hand, and watched him ring the bell until she answered the door.

Then he left after talking with her a moment and came back to the car parked in front of my door. He got into the car from the driver's side and soon they drove south toward Cleveland.

To Bed With Gun

I went back to bed with the gun under my pillow. The next morning, Mrs. Anderson told me that the people had asked her if she had vacant rooms. What I couldn't understand and still don't was why they knocked on the door of my motel room instead of first going to the office of the motel.

On another occasion, Murray Kempton, of the New York Post called me in Mound Bayou. I got his message and called him back. He was not in. But as soon as I hung up, the phone rang for me. A voice at the other end of the wire in Clarksdale said his name was Ferguson and that he knew I had called Murray a few minutes ago. The voice said he and Murray were good friends and that I could tell him anything that I was going to tell Murray and that he would pass it on to Murray.

A Persistent Voice

I told the voice that he was on the wrong track, that I had not been calling Murray to tell him anything but that I was simply returning a call which Murray had put through to me from Clarksdale.

The voice insisted, "Come on Hicks, You know plenty. Let me in on it." He gave the impression that he was another newsman. I told him I simply did not have any leads to work on and he finally hung up.

The next day in Sumner, I told Murray about the incident. He went to James Featherston and accused Featherston of trying to get me to give him some information under his name.

But the last day of the trial, Featherston came up to me in Kempton's presence and swore that he had never talked with me by phone. I told Murray that the man on the other end had used the name of Ferguson. And in reflection I'm sure that it was not the voice of Featherston.

Who was it? I haven't the slightest idea.

Change In Attitude

One more incident. Sheriff Strider gave out press passes which were supposed to enable reporters to use the back stairs which the jury used in getting in and out of the courtroom to avoid going through the crowd.

The day after I gave the sheriff the name of "Too Tight" Collins, I started up the back steps to go to the courtroom. A deputy was standing on the narrow stairway and as I approached him with card in hand, he put one foot against the wall of the narrow stairway, leaned against the other and barred the way.

I said "Press" and held the card up higher. He said to me, "No n------ are going up this stairway." I bit my tongue, turned around and started for the front stairs where one had to push his way through the hostile crowd.

Gets Some Help

On the way, I met John Popham of the Times and I told him what had happened. I also told him how hard it would be to push one's way through the hostile crowd. He suggested that we get together and try to go up.

With Popham leading the way, we went back to the stairs. Several white reporters walked on past the deputy before we reached him.

Then Popham walked past him. I followed. But as I put my foot out to mount the first stair, up came the deputy's foot again and barred the way. Popham who had already passed him turned and said, "He's a reporter, he's got a card. The sheriff said the press could go up this way."

The man snarled at me, "You're not going up this way. Go 'round. He had a gun. I had no choice. I went around.

I know that this information was given to Strider. But we still never were able to use the back steps.

Beat Him Down

All of these things gradually beat me down at Sumner. A deputy threatened to knock Simeon Booker's "head off" because Booker held up his press card and asked the deputy to help him get through the crowd.

A man who walked up to the press table and called all of us "N-----" was sworn in five minutes later as a bailiff.

An English correspondent who talked to a colored woman was later fired at twice the same night by the deputy who arrested me.

Hicks Tells Why He Went Back To Miss. For Emmett Till Hearing

World-Telegram Birmingham, Ala.

Fall-18-55

NEW YORK, N. Y.— (NNPA) — During the Emmett Till murder trial at Sumner Mississippi I was humiliated, insulted and finally arrested for my activity along with other reporters in trying to round up witnesses for the prosecution.

When the announcement was made public, my wife, my mother many of my close friends and many readers whom I have never met warned me in phone calls, personal messages and through letters to my paper, telling me not to go back to Mississippi.

When I told them that I was going back, many of them asked me why. Some said I was either foolishly trying to get my neck broken or I was making a grandstand play for a few readers.

I think it is only fair that I now tell WHY I went back to Mississippi.

I think that I should begin saying that my editors did not SEND me back. On the contrary, one of the letters I have earmarked for my scrapbook, is one from my executive offices in Baltimore telling me of the kidnapping indictment proceedings which were taken then coming up and stating that the paper would have a reporter down there to cover it.

The letter expressed an awareness of the difficulty I had gone through on the murder trial and then left it up to me as to whether I would be the reported assigned to go back.

I answered the letter and asked for the assignment. I got it and I went back. I went back for a number of reasons.

The first reason I went back is because I felt I HAD to go back to Mississippi if I were going to continue in my work as a newspaperman. You see the white people of Mississippi actually frightened me during the Sumner murder trial. I have denied it — I was scared all the time I was there and I was very very happy when it was all over and I could get out of there.

Now the mere fact that I was frightened during the murder trial didn't worry me too much. I've been scared before on assignments such as Korea and the second atomic bomb explosion.

But the thing that really did worry me was the fact that I was still frightened and scared when I LEFT Mississippi. There's a big difference. In Korea I was scared when there was a break through by the enemy or when a mortar fell too close to me—but always when that particular phase of the attack was over I felt the same again.

But in Mississippi the difference was that I became frightened while there and remained frightened up to the very moment that I left there.

It was only when I got back and realized this that I also realized that I had to go back to Mississippi.

To me it was just like being frightened on an airplane when something goes wrong and finally getting back on ground alive. I have a feeling that if you don't get back on a plane at your earliest opportunity you may never get on another one because of your fear.

I recall once being on a Pan American Stratocruiser which caught fire ten minutes after we left Honolulu enroute to Korea. Flames engulfed the plane while we were in the air and it seemed a miracle that the pilot was able to get us back to Honolulu without all of us getting killed.

But we did get back safely and they reparied the plane in two days. On the third day when they announced to the 60 passengers that the plane was ready to take off again, only 20 of the 60 agreed to get back on it. Some caught boats and others said they would wait for at least another plane.

I was scared—but I was one of the 20 who got back on the same plane. A white correspondent who was traveling with me at the time decided he would catch a boat. He did. I see him every day here in New York now. But he has never been on another plane. He openly says now that he's just too scared to do so after the Honolulu incident.

I believe that if he had got back on that plane with the other 20 of us he would still be flying today. And he needs to fly in his job.

I thought of him when I decided to go back to Mississippi. The way I look at it Mississippi and the Till case is just ONE of a series of such racial incidents and outbreaks which are certain to pop up all over the South in the immediate future as integration is stepped up.

And every such incident should and must be covered by the colored press. You can't get around it. Somebody has got to be there to tell the world whats going on. Who is better qaulified to do this than a colored reporter.

And I'm a colored reporter.

I felt I had to go back to Mississippi if I intended to keep on being a colored reporter.

The second reason I went back also personal. I just didn't want to admit to myself that I was actually afraid to go to any part of this country for which I gave blood, sweat and tears during the last war.

I'm an American and Mississippi is still a part of America though many white people down there refuse to act like it. I just didn't want to admit to myself the flag that I followed and fought for, the flag that I love and respect, would not be with me in any part of America.

So I asked to go back.

My return trip was not a rewarding one. If I had doubts on the first trip about Mississippi being in complete defiance of the US flag, all the doubt was erased by my second trip. I know now that the state of Mississippi is already in complete rebellion against all the ideals of Americanism which I have been taught to love and respect.

But I have one satisfaction as the result of my second visit.

I'm not afraid of Mississippi anymore.

It was just like getting back on that plane the second time. Today I'm not afraid to ride anything that soars through the air and if and when they get rockets to the moon I'm going to ask to be in the first group of reporters who fly up there.

TRUE STORY OF TILL TRIAL

Witnesses Fear Call For Lives After Fri, 10-21-55 Big Double-Cross P. 1

Fantastic Story of What Happened in Mississippi Continued by CALL Writer; Kansas City Mo.

This is the third installment of "The True Story of the Till Trial" as told by James L. Hicks, reporter for THE CALL and other NNPA newspapers, who covered the trial of the two white men charged with the slaying of 14-year-old Emmett Till in Sumner, Miss.

In preceding installments, Hicks told of discovering witnesses who could give first-hand accounts of events leading up to the slaying of young Till. The story of the secret witnesses was told to newsmen in an "off the record" conference but word leaked out and the lives of the witnesses were placed in danger. As the second installment ended, Ruby Hurley, NAACP secretary, and a newspaper man, Moses Newsome of Memphis, disguised themselves as sharecroppers to go to a plantation and warn the witnesses of the danger and to spirit them away.

By JAMES L. HICKS

NEW YORK, N.Y. — With the trial recessed, we then went back to Mound Bayou.

The meeting place with the witnesses was in Cleveland and we were to be there at dark.

When darkness fell, I went to the meeting place. There I met a man who is an ardent worker in the N.A.A.C.P. He told me to park my car and get into his car. Then he drove me to a house, which turned out to be the real meeting place.

I later learned that this is the way they do it down there. They announce one place as the site. But when you arrive there, it is really not the bona fide place. If you are the right person, you are taken from there to the meeting place. If you are not, no one will admit knowing what you are talking about.

A Sad Story

Fantastic! It seems that way. But you have to live in Mississippi under the threat of its violence to learn what people like Ruby Hurley and other NAACP leaders have learned.

When I arrived at the other house, I found Ruby and Newsome safe but they had a sad story to tell.

During the afternoon, the authorities, notified by the white reporters, had gone to the plantations and questioned the prospective witnesses. This had scared them to death and they felt that we had gone back on our promise to get them out of there before telling the white people.

Refused To Come

The result was that they not only clammed up to the whites, but they refused to come to the meeting with us.

We didn't know exactly what to do then. A call came from Porteous saying that he was on his way down with the sheriffs of the various counties, a special investigator sent by the governor and other officials. And we had no witnesses to produce.

We went on, however, to the meeting place with the white authorities and Dr. Howard who met with them and told them of how they had jumped the gun and what it meant.

He also pointed out the danger that the witnesses would be in when the story broke and he asked that they be taken off the farms and placed in protective custody. The various sheriffs and county supervisors, all of whom were there, said they did not feel the people involved were in any immediate danger, but they said if Dr. Howard thought so, they would go get them and bring them to Mound Bayou for safe keeping.

Thus at about midnight, we sat there in an insurance office with the following law officials of Mississippi: T. J. Townsend, prosecutor of Sunflower county; Gwin Cole, who had been flown to the trial that day on orders by Governor Hugh White as soon as the new evidence was presented; Sheriff George Smith of LeFlore county; District Attorney Stannie Sanders of Sunflower county and John E. Cothran, chief deputy of Sunflower county.

They said the governor was interested in the case and they wanted to do anything Dr. Howard and the group suggested.

Dr. Howard insisted that the only thing to do was to go right then and get the people off the plantation. The law officials said they could not force them to leave but that they could take us out there and let us talk to them and bring those out who wanted to come. Call

Cars Move Fast

Things happened fast after that. The various sheriffs said they would go get people in their own counties and before one could say Jackie Robinson cars were moving out in all directions.

Some key people of Mississippi who were in on the meeting but who still cannot be identified got into cars with the sheriffs. These people were the contact people with the people on the plantations.

Various reporters took off after various sheriffs in cars of their own. As for me, I started out behind the sheriff who was to bring in Willie Reed.

He went through Mound Bayou like a streak and turned right at the dirt road leading towards Drew. I hit the dirt road behind him as he reared into the cotton fields. P. 14

70 Miles An Night

Now it's simply a part of this fantastic story to state that at times on that little dirt road leading out of Mound Bayou that I was travelling in the dead of night at times at 70 miles an hour!

It's fantastic but true.

But even at that speed, I lost the sheriff and Jackson, a photographer who was riding with me, and I decided to go on then to County Supervisor Townsend's office at Drew where all the witnesses picked up by the various sheriffs were to be brought before being taken to Mound Bayou.

Driving at 75 miles an hour when we hit the paved road leading into Drew, we overtook Simeon Booker and Clark Porteous and Featherston. They, too, had chased a sheriff and got lost in the Mississippi dirt road. The five of us then went to Townsend's office.

He Never Testified

As we arrived there, a white woman drove up in a car and a colored man got out. This proved to be Frank Young, one of the key witnesses in the case who never testified. The sheriff in that county had simply called the plantation owner on which Young worked and told her to bring Young in.

Dr. Howard was to have followed us to Drew to be there when the witnesses were questioned but for some reason he was delayed and though Young had talked freely before this, he refused to talk to anyone but Dr. Howard.

We waited a long time and then the white woman who had brought him in grew tired and she took Young back to the plantation, promising to have him in court the next day. Young never took the witness stand. They told me he came to the court and could not find the courtroom and went back. I never did get the straight of this.

Back Without Witness

One of the sheriffs had taken a colored minister with him to get Mandy Bradley. About 2 o'clock in the mornin, they returned without Mandy. Moses Newsome, a reporter who had ridden in the sheriff's car with the minister and the sheriff said the sheriff had driven to the house, sent the minister in to talk with Mrs. Bradley and see if she would come to Mound Bayou.

She is said to have told him that she would not, that she did not know anything about the case. But later the same woman did testify in the case and has now left her native Mississippi and is in Chicago. I can only believe that the events of the day and night had frightened her nearly to death.

The various sheriffs talked to other witnesses but were able to get none to come forward that night. Finally in the early hours of the morning, we went back to Mound Bayou over the lonely back road.

Puts Hicks On Spot

There is one point which I should mention here that I feel had a direct bearing on my future activity with the trial.

During the meeting at Mound Bayou with the various sheriffs, one of them asked Dr. Howard what were the names of the two men who had been seen on the truck with Emmett Till. At this point only, Dr. Howard and the sheriffs were in the room together and reporters were waiting outside.

But at this point, Dr. Howard in a loud booming-voice called out "Send Jimmy Hicks in here." I went into the room and before all those sheriffs and other officials of Mississippi, many of whom I did not trust, he pointed to me and said, "This is Jimmy Hicks. He has talked with the people who know "Too Tight." Hicks, what is Too Tight's real name and what is the name of the man who was on that truck with him?"

Didn't Want To Answer

I didn't want to answer. I didn't want to enter into the trial that way whatever. But I couldn't let Dr. Howard down before all those people and I knew I was the only one who had the answer. So I said "Too Tight's" real name is Leroy Collins and the other man is Henry Lee Loggins."

All their eyes were upon me as I left the room. And I got a funny feeling that the finger might also be on me, too.

Back at the Mound Bayou hotel my colleagues were even more insistent that I lighten up on the type of story I was filing through Western Union.

From that point on it seemed that everyone in the courthouse knew what I had written the moment I filed it. I am not accusing Western Union. I do not believe that the operators were willfully letting anyone read my copy.

Easy To See

But the Western Union ticker was set up in the hallway of the courthouse and many of the local people had never seen one work. Those who could get into the courtroom, made it a habit to crowd around the open phones and the Western Union desk and listen to reporters call in their stories on special wires set up for them.

was very easy for them to look over the shoulder of the ern Union operator and see he was filing.

owner of the only colored in Sumner told me himself the white people listened in everything said on his phone ruled that one out with the ption of a few calls to my of- during which time I never said what part I was playing the trial.

While I was debating on wheth- to just sit down and tell it all, incident happened which caus- me to finally agree not to file at I was seeing and doing.

Frightening Experience

I drove to the trial at 9 o'clock Wednesday morning and sat through the trial until it recessed at 1:30. Then I started to my car parked in front of the court house. As I reached the car with the key in my hand to get a notebook out of the car, a white man stepped off the curb and said to me, "Boy, this your car." When I answered that it was, he snatched the [illegible] and said, "You come with me down to the mayor's office."

I was never so shocked in my life, but when I saw his gun I decided that I'd better go along. I began walking with the man to the mayor's office, neither of us said a word. But, oh, how I was thinking! I felt at the start that Sheriff Strider, whom I simply do not trust, had got wind of my activity in tracking down Too Tight and I figured that I might be stuck away in some jail and given a good going over until after the trial.

We walked a half block and turned into the offices of the Sumner Sentinel. Inside the door stood Featherston, the Jackson, Miss., reporter, who had worked on the witnesses with us virtually all night the night before.

Featherston said to me "Hi Hicks, How you doing?" I said to him, "Not so good. Looks like I'm in trouble."

A Real Friend

He said "What the trouble?" and I asked him to ask the deputy who had brought me in. All the deputy would tell him was that Sheriff Strider had ordered him to pick me up.

I'll never forget Featherston. He told the deputy. "Look I'm from Jackson, Miss. I know this boy. He's all right. You must have the wrong man. This boy is down covering the trial." The deputy ignored him.

About that time, Simpson, editor of the Sentinel, came in. And I was glad that he had been the first man I had gone to when I hit town.

Deputy Won't Talk

Simpson, like Featherston, greeted me warmly and asked me how things were going. I told him I was under arrest but did not know the charges. Simpson then aggressively demanded of the deputy what he was holding me for. When he refused to tell him, he said, "Well by God, let's get the sheriff over her and see. This man is here to coyer the trial. Every reporter here speaks highly of him." He then ordered someone in his office to go get the sheriff who was in the courthouse across the street.

But instead of the sheriff coming back, about 40 newsmen hit the door of the Sentinel.

Their nose for news had already sniffed a new story and they were there to check on it and I was glad to see them there.

Passed School Bus

It was then and only then that the deputy suddenly realized that he knew the charges against me. He said, "He's charged with passing a standing school bus!"

Simpson exploded. "School bus," he said. "For goodness sakes turn that man loose. You're getting ready to give this town the biggest black eye it has ever had."

He then turned to what I later found was the justice of the peace who "tried" my case — the linotype operator in Simpson's printing plant!

Simpson suggested to the linotype operator that he dismiss the charges but the linotype operator who was then talking to his boss, said, "This is my case and I'm going to try it."

Little Important Man

I saw then that here was a little man who wanted to show his importance and I was so relieved that it was a traffic charge and nothing else that I told Alex Wilson of the Memphis Tri State Defender to buzz to the colored press that I was OK and could pay the fine and that I'd get off better if they left and made it appear that no one was putting any pressure on the little justice of the peace.

They left (and bless them all for having the courage to come) but some of the white reporters remained and continued to ask questions. One picked up a phone on Simpson's desk, called Memphis and began dictating the story to his editor. The story later appeared on the center fold of the Memphis Commercial Appeal.

With Simpson talking to the JP, he said to me "Come back here, boy." I went. He took me back to a linotype machine; wiped the ink off his hands, got out a law book and began reading a law to me.

Gave Him A Break

When he finished, he told me that under that law he could fine me $200 or give me six months in jail. But he said he was going to "give you a break" and dismiss the case. He asked me if I thought that would be a good break. I told him I certainly did. And then he dismissed the case and told me to "tell all those reporters out there that "we gave you a break." I told him that I would—and I did.

By this time, however, I was getting the general idea that perhaps I was a marked man for during his conversation with me the justice of the peace started telling where I was staying, what time I got to the trial in the morning, where I parked my car and who I was going to have lunch with that day. (I was going to eat with a local woman who had promised me some more information. She did not show up).

I haven't the slightest idea how he learned all this.

Next Week: The Final Chapter.

Till Case May Set Off "Hot War" In Miss.

By James L. Hicks

GREENWOOD, Miss. — The all-white jury's failure to indict Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam on charges of kidnapping Emmett Till may turn the cold war, now going on between colored and white in the South, into a shooting war in which people will fight back for the first time.

This statement is based on a careful study by this reporter of a deep, dark feelings between the two races, while covering Sumner murder trial and in talks with both sides during days leading up to the kidnapping indictment proceedings.

With full realization of what I'm saying, I'm forced to report that the attitude of the colored man in Mississippi to the colored man in Mississippi today is "I've had enough—I cannot and I will not stand for any more."

And, since my talks with white people left the definite impression that they plan no serious steps to stop their reign of terror, one can only conclude that if both races mean what they said (and I believe they do) the grand jury's action in failing to indict could be the straw that could break the camel's back.

The Grand jury after hearing the testimony of four witnesses, Moses Wright, Willie Reed, Sheriffs George Smith and Deputy John Cothran, voted Wednesday not to indict the two white men, even though it had before it the testimony of the men themselves that they took the boy from Mose Wright's home on August 28.

It is a matter of record that during the murder trial both Sheriff Smith and Deputy Cothran testified that Milam and Bryant told them that they took the boy from his uncle's home and Mose Wright said they did it at gunpoint.

District Attorney Stannie Sanders said the grand jury deliberated three hours Wednesday.

No one can question his word because reporters were not permitted into the jury room. But it is difficult in the light of evidence to figure out just what they could have been deliberating on.

Failure of the grand jury to indict means that the white people of Mississippi have completed one of the most heinous crimes in the annals of any American state and got away with it without a single finger of the law being raised against anyone.

For no matter what evidence is turned up at this point, no matter what cowardly witnesses belatedly came forward to testify- Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam will never be again tried for the kidnaping or the murder of Emmett Till.

But there is a point beyond which the most patient of men will not go, and I can report that in the cotton fields of Mississippi, in the large cities and in the small towns, I have found the most patient of colored men rapidly reaching the breaking point.

Over and over again I have been met with the expression, "They got away with murder in Sumner. If the law doesn't do something about the kidnaping at Greenwood, it looks like we'll have to just start taking care of ourseves."

These words were not spoken to me by professional rabblerousers or left wingers trained in the art of creating confusion and disorder.

On the contrary, they were uttered to me often in bad, broken English in the language of the sharecropper, the cotton picker, or the "housebdy," who works in the white man's home.

No one ever stated definitely what he might do or what he wanted to do. The last thing a colored man in Mississippi wants to talk about is an open war with white folk.

But after the Sumner acquittal and even more so during the indictment proceedings, the line became more and more pronounded: "We've got to start taking care of ourselves."

The most outspoken critics of the situation in Mississippi are the colored women. They enjoy more freedom than their men folk and more and more they are speaking out against the failure of their men to act.

For example, every colored woman I talked with in Mississippi was critical of Mose Wright for permitting the two white men to come into his home and take the Till boy in the first place.

They express admiration for Wright's courage in coming back and testifying. But, at the same time, they say openly "He should have killed them when they broke into his home."

And when you tell them that Mose himself might have been killed if he resisted, they inevitaby say "Everybody's got to die sometime."

This kind of talk, of course, is goading to the colored men. And most of them will not say much. But if you ask them what their actions woud have been, they generally say, "A man has a right to protect his family."

When the verdict was announced man fairly. The only way he Reed in the safety of his Chicago home. Said Willie: "It isn't fair. Nobody down there treats a colored if he rsistd, thy inevitably will ever get fair treatment down there is to take for himself."

These were strong words from peaceful, non-educated Willie Reed, but it shows that even Willie has a breaking point.

No one hopes more than this writer that the end has come to this type of thing in Mississippi. But no one feels stronger than this writer that if the end has not come the next Till incident will see the colored people of Mississippi write a new ending to the script.

If there ever was a time the Federal government is needed to step in and cool off a hot situa-

[illegible] on the time is now in Mississippi.

8900

Suspected "Finger"

Reporters With Informer Hicks In Darkest Hour Of Till Trial

Aut. 10-22-55

P. 1

WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE: In the previous installments James L. Hicks has found "Too Tight" and other witnesses hidden away in the jail, so that the reporters could not find them; also, many other witnesses hidden off on plantations, where people are not permitted to go to see them or to get them off. Some other witnesses have just disappeared completely, no one knows where they are. There follows a cat-and-mouse race with the reporters and Dr Howard trying to find the witnesses, and figure a way to get their testimony available, with the defense doing everything possible to keep the witnesses away. Then there is the struggle between Hicks and Dr Howard over the question of publishing what he knows, because Dr Howard is afraid that publication might endanger the witnesses before they can get into safety, meaning those on plantations. Then when Ruby Hurley, NAACP representative, agrees with Hicks that it should be published, Dr Howard is piqued and decides to tell all the white reporters, prematurely, and that gets everybody into a dither. The story continues below:

Houston Texas

(EDITORIAL NOTE: This is the third installment of four stories, giving the behind-the-scene facts in the Till murder case.)

By JAMES L. HICKS

Fantastic! It seems that way. But you have to live in Mississippi under the threat of its violence to learn what people like Ruby Hurley and other NAACP leaders have learned.

When I arrived at the other house I found Ruby Hurley and Newsome safe but they had a sad story to tell.

ERROR BOOMERANG

During the afternoon the authorities notified by the white reporters had gone to the plantations ahead of them and questioned the prospective witnesses. This had scared them to death and they felt that we had gone back on our promise to get them out of there before the white people were told.

The result was that they not only clammed up to the whites but they refused to came to the meeting with us.

We didn't know exactly what to do then. A call came from Porteous saying that he was on his way down with the sheriffs on the various counties. a special investigator sent by the Governor and other officials. And we had no witnesses to produce.

We went on, however, to the meeting place with the white authorities and Dr Howard who met with them told them of how they had jumped the gun and what it meant.

He also pointed out the danger that the witnesses would be in when the story broke and he asked that they be taken off the farms and placed in protective custody. The various sheriffs and county supervisors, all of whom were there, said they did not feel the people involved were in any immediate danger but they said if Dr Howard thought so they would go get them and bring them to Mound Bayou for safe keeping.

GOVERNOR TAKES INTEREST

Thus at about midnight we sat there in an insurance office with the following law officials of Mississippi, T J Townsend, presecutor of Sunflower County, Owin Cole, who had been flown to the trial that day on orders by Governor Hugh White as soon as the new evidence was presented, Sheriff George Smith of LeFlore County, District Attorney Stannie Sanders of Sunflower County and John Ed Cothran, chief deputy of Sunflower County. They said the Governor was interested in the case and they wanted to do anything Dr Howard and the group suggested.

Dr Howard insisted that the only thing to do was to go right then and get the people off the plantation. The law officials said they could not force them to leave but that they would take us out and let us talk to them and bring those out who wanted to come.

Things happened fast after that. The various sheriffs said they would go get people in their own counties and before one could say Jackie Robinson, cars were moving out in all directions.

Some key people of Mississippi who were in on the meeting but who still cannot be identified got into cars with the sheriffs. These people were the contact people with the people on the plantations.

Various reporters took off after sheriffs in cars of their own, As for me I started out behind the sheriff who was to bring in Willie Reed.

He went through Mound Bayou like a streak and turned right at the dirt road leading towards Drew. I hit the dirt road behind him as he roared into the cotton fields.

Now its simply a part of this fantastic story to state that at times on that little dirt road leading out of Mound Bayou that I was travelling, in the dead of night, at times at 70 miles an hour!

It's fantastic but true.

But even at that speed I lost the sheriff and a Jackson and Johnson publications photographer, who was riding with me, and I decided to go on then to County Supervisor Townsend's office at Drew where all the witnesses picked up by the vahious sheriffs were to be brought before being taken to Mound Bayou.

Driving at 75 miles a hour when we hit the paved road leading into Drew we overtook Simeon Booker and Clark Porteous and Featherson. They too had chased a sheriff and got lost on the Mississippi dirt road. The five of us then went to Townsend's office.

As we arrived there a white woman drove up in a car and a colored man got out. This proved to be Frank Young, one of the key witnesses in the case who never testified. The sheriff in that county had simply called the plantation owner on which Young worked and told her to bring Young in.

WITNESS CLAM-UP

Dr Howard was to have followed us to Drew to be there when the witnesses were questioned but for some reason he was delayed and though Young talked freely before this, he refused to talk to anyone but Dr Howard.

We waited a long time and then the white woman who had brought him in grew tired and she took Young back to the plantation, promising to have him in court the next day. Young never took the witness stand. They told me he came to the court and could not find the courtroom and went back. I never did get the straight of this.

One of the sheriffs had taken a colored minister with him to get Mandy Bradley. About two o'clock in the morning they returned without Mandy. Moses Newsome, a reporter who had ridden in the sheriff's car with the Minister and the sheriff, said the sheriff had driven to the house, sent the minister in to talk with Mrs Bradley and see if she would come to Mound Bayou.

She is said to have told him that she would not. That she did not know anything about the case. But later the same woman did testify

native Mississippi and is in Chicago. I can only believe that the events of the day and night had frightened her nearly to death.

The varions sheriffs talked to other witneses but were able to get none to come forward that night. Finally in the early hours of the morning we went back to Mound Bayou over the lonely back road.

There is one point which I should mention here that I feel had a direct bearing on my future activities with the trial.

REPORTER ON SPOT

During the meeting at Mound Bayou with the various sheriffs, one of them asked Dr Howard what were the names of the two men who had been seen on the truck with Emmett Till. At this point Dr Howard and the sheriffs were in the room together and reporters waiting outside.

But at this point Dr Howard in a loud booming voice called out "Send Jimmy Hicks in here." I went into the room and before all these sheriffs and other officials of Mississippi, many of whom I did not trust, he pointed to me and said "This is Jimmy Hicks of the Afro American papers. He has talked with the people who know "Too Tight". Hicks, what is "Too Tight's" real name and what is the name of the man who was on that truck with him?".

I didn't want to answer. I didn't want to enter into it that way whatever. But I couldn't let Dr Howard down before all those people and I knew I was the only one who had the answer. So I said "Too Tight's" real name is Leroy Collins and the other man is Henry Lee Loggins".

All their eyes were upon me as I left the room. And I got a funny feeling that the finger might also be on me too.

Back at the Mound Bayou hotel my colleagues were even more insistent that I lighten up on the type of story I was filing through Western Union.

From that point on it seemed that everyone in the courtroom knew what I had written the moment I filed it. I am not accusing Western Union. I do not believe that the operators were willfully letting anyone read my copy.

But the Western Union ticker was set up in the hallway of the courthouse and many of the local people had never seen one work. These who could not get into the courtroom made it a habit to crowd around the open phones and the Western Union desk and listen to the reporters call in their stories on special wires set up for them.

It was very easy for them to also look over the shoulder of the Western Union operator and see what he was filing.

The owner of the only colored phone in Sumner told me himself that the white people listened in on everything said on his phone so I ruled that one out with the exception of a few calls to my office which time I never once said what part I was playing in the trial.

While I was debating on whether to just sit down and tell it all an incident happened, which caused me to finally agree to file what I was seeing and doing.

ARRESTED

I drove to the trial at nine o'clock Wednesday morning and sat through the trial until it recessed at 1:30. Then I started to my car parked in front of the court house. As I reached the car with the key in my hand to get a notebook out of the car a white man stepped off the curb and said to me "Boy is this your Car". When I answered that it was, he snatched the key

from my hand and said 'You come with me down to the Mayor's office."

I was never so shocked in my life but when I saw his gun I decided that I'd better go along.

I began walking with the man to the "mayor's office". Neither of us said a word. But oh how I was thinking! I felt at the start that Sheriff Strider whom I simply do not trust had got wind of my activity in tracking down "Too Tight" and I figured that I might be stuck away in some jail and given a good going over until after the trial.

We walked a half block and turned into the office of the Sumner Sentinel. Inside the door stood Featherson, the Jackson, Mississippi, reporter who had worked on the witnesses with us virtually all in the case and has now left her night the night before.

Featherson said to me "Hi Hicks. How you doing?" I said to him "Not so good. Looks like I'm in trouble."

He said "What's the trouble"? and I asked him to ask the deputy who brought me in. All the deputy would tell him was that Sheriff Strider had ordered him to pick me up.

WHITES HELP REPORTER

I'll never forget Featherson. He told the deputy "Look, I'm from Jackson, Mississippi. I know that boy. He's all right. You must have the wrong man. This boy is down here covering the trial". The deputy ignored him.

About that time Simpson, editor of the Sentinel came in. And I was glad that he had been the first man I had gone to when I hit town.

Simpson, like Featherson, greeted me warmly and asked me how things were going. I told him I was under arrest but did not know the charges. Simpson then aggressively demanded of the deputy what he was holding me for. When he refused to tell him he said "Well, by God, Let's get the sheriff over here and see. This man is here to cover the trial. Every reporter here speaks highly of him because I checked up on him." He then ordered someone in his office to go get the sheriff who was in the courtroom across the street.

But instead of the sheriff coming back about 40 newsmen hit the door of the Sentinel.

Their nose for news had already sniffed a new story and they were there to check on it and I was glad to see them there.

It was then and only then that the deputy suddenly realized that he knew the charges against me. He said "He's charged with passing a standing school bus!"

Simpson exploded. "School bus" he said. "For Goodness sakes, turn that man loose. You are getting ready to give this town the highest black eye it has ever had."

He then turned to what I later found was the justice of the peace who "tried" my case—the linotype operator in Simpson's printing plant!

Simpson suggested to the linotype operator that he dismiss the charges but the linotype operator who was then talking to his boss, said "This is my case and I'm going to try it."

I saw then that here was a little man who wanted to show his importance and I was so relieved that it was a traffic charge and nothing else that I told Alex Wilson of the Memphis Tri-State Defender to buzz to the colored press that I was OK and could pay the fine and that I think I'd get off better if they left and made it appear that no one was putting any pressure on the little justice of the peace.

To Be Continued

27d 1955 MISSISSIPPI JAMES L. HICKS 8901

UNBELIEVABLE!

Afro-American Jimmy Hicks' Inside Story Of Miss. Lynch Trial

Baltimore, Md. P7

The AFRO's crack correspondent Jimmy Hicks played the role of an amateur detective in the backwoods towns of Mississippi to uncover evidence in the slaying of Emmitt Till.

Box 10-22-55

He picked up the trail of Leroy (Too Tight) Collins in Glendora, Miss. and learned that Collins was reputed to be one of three men on the truck the night that Till was killed.

When Hicks returned to Sumner, he was met by newspaper colleagues, who told of how they were driving down a dirt road and encountered a truck load of white men armed with shotguns and pistols.

* * *

QUESTIONING the men about the presence of guns, they were told that the men were "deer hunting."

When they returned to Mound Bayou, they were told that deer hunting season had not yet started in Mississippi.

Afro-American P2

AGAINST THIS BACKDROP, Hicks unfolded what he had learned to Dr. T. M. Howard, a militant leader of Mound Bayou.

Ba

After pledging secrecy, Hicks reports, Dr. Howard made a "tactical mistake." Dr. Howard told reporters from white newspapers that "new witnesses" existed.

As a consequence, within hours after the white reporters learned about the "new witnesses," it became common knowledge.

Fearing for the lives of the witnesses, Miss Hurley, disguised as a sharecropper in a Mother Hubbard dress and bandana, and Newsome, who weighs 130 pounds, donned a pair of size 46 overalls and left for the plantation to warn the witnesses.

* * *

By JIMMY HICKS
(Third in a series of Four)

WITH THE trial recessed, we then went back to Mound Bayou.

The meeting place with the witnesses was in Cleveland and we were to be there at dark.

When darkness fell, I went to the meeting place. There I met a man who is an ardent worker in the NAACP.

He told me to park my car and get into his car. Then he drove me to a house which turned out to be the real meeting place.

I later learned that this is the way they do it down there. They announce one place as the site. But when you arrive there, it is really not the bona fide place.

IF YOU ARE the right person, you are taken from there to the meeting place. If you are not, no one will admit knowing what you are talking about.

Fantastic! It seems that way. But you have to live in Mississippi under the threat of its violence to learn what people like Ruby Hurley and other NAACP leaders have learned.

When I arrived at the other house, I found Ruby and Newsome safe but they had a sad story to tell.

During the afternoon, the authorities, notified by the white reporters, had gone to the plantation ahead of them and questioned the prospective witnesses.

* * *

THIS HAD scared them to death and they felt that we had gone back on our promise to get them out of there before telling the white people.

The result was that they not only clammed up to the whites, but they refused to come to the meeting with us.

We didn't know exactly what to do then. A call came from Porteous saying that he was on his way down with the sheriffs of the various counties, a special investigator sent by the Governor and other officials. And we had no witnesses to produce.

We went on, however, to the meeting place with the white authorities and Dr. Howard, who met with them and told them of how they had jumped the gun and what it meant.

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HE ALSO pointed out the danger that the witnesses would be in when the story broke and he asked that they be taken off the farms and placed in protective custody.

The various sheriffs and county supervisors, all of whom were there, said they did not feel the people involved were in any immediate danger.

But they said if Dr. Howard thought so, they would go get them and bring them to Mound Bayou for safe keeping.

Thus at about midnight, we sat there in an insurance office with the following law officials of Mississippi:

T. J. Townsend, prosecutor of Sunflower County, Gwin Cole, who had been flown to the trial that day on orders by Governor Hugh White as soon as the new evidence was presented;

Also Sheriff George Smith of LaFlore County; District Attorney Stannie Sanders of Sunflower County and John E. Cothran, chief deputy of Sunflower County.

* * *

THEY SAID the governor was interested in the case and they wanted to do anything Dr. Howard and the group suggested.

Dr. Howard insisted that the only thing to do was to go right then and get the people off the plantation.

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Various reporters took off after various sheriffs in cars of their own. As for me, I started out behind the sheriff who was to bring in Willie Reed.

He went through Mound Bayou like a streak and turned right at the dirt road leading towards Drew. I hit the dirt road behind him as he roared into the cotton fields.

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NOW IT'S simply a part of this fantastic story to state that at times on that little dirt road leading out of Mound Bayou that I was traveling in the dead of night at times at 70 miles an hour!

It's fantastic but true.

But even at that speed, I lost the sheriff and Jackson, a Johnson publications photographer who was riding with me, and I decided to go on then to County Supervisor Townsend's office at Drew where all the witnesses picked up by the various sheriffs were to be brought before being taken to Mound Bayou.

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At this point only, Dr. Howard and the sheriffs were in the room together and reporters were waiting outside.

But at this point, Dr. Howard, in a loud booming voice called out, "Send Jimmy Hicks in here."

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"He has talked with the people who know 'Too Tight.' Hicks, what is "Too Tight's" real name and what is the name of the man who was on that truck with him?"

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AS I REACHED the car with the key in my hand to get a notebook out of the car, a white man stepped off the curb and said to me:

"Boy, is this your car?" When I answered that it was, he snatched the key from my hand and said, "You come with me down to the Mayor's office."

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I BEGAN walking with the man to the "mayor's office," neither of us said a word. But, oh, how I was thinking!

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* * *

FEATHERSTON AID to me. "Hi Hicks, How you doing?" I said to him, "Not so good. Looks like I'm in trouble."

He said, "What's the trouble?" and I asked him to ask the deputy who had brought me in. All the deputy would tell him was that Sheriff Strider had ordered him to pick me up.

I'll never forget Featherston. He told the deputy. "Look I'm from Jackson, Miss. I know this boy. He's all right. You must have the wrong man. This boy is down here covering the trial." The deputy ignored him.

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ABOUT THAT time, Simpson, editor of the Sentinel came in. And I was glad that he had been the first man I had gone to when I hit town.

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* * *

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HE THEN turned to what I later found was the justice of the peace who "tried" my case—the linotype operator in Simpson's printing plant!

Simpson suggested to the linotype operator that he dismiss the charges but the linotype operator who was then talking to his boss, said, "This is my case and I'm going to try it."

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* * *

THEY LEFT (and bless them all for having the courage to come) but some of the white reporters remained and continued to ask questions.

One picked up a phone on Simpson's desk, called Memphis and began dictating the story to his editor. The story later appeared on the center fold of the Memphis Commercial Appeal.

With Simpson talking to the JP, he said to me. "Come back here, boy." I went. He took me back to a linotype machine wiped the ink off his hands, got out a law book and began reading a law to me.

* * *

WHEN HE finished, he told me that under that law he could fine me $200 or give me six months in jail. But he said he was going to "give you a break" and dismiss the case.

He asked me if I thought that would be a good break. I told him I certainly did.

And then he dismissed the case and told me to "tell all those reporters out there that "we gave you a break." I told him that I would—and I did.

27d 1955

MISSISSIPPI

JAMES L. HICKS

8902

UNBELIEVABLE!

Afro-American
Sat. 10-15-55

Jimmy Hicks' Inside Story Of Lynch Trial

By JIMMY L. HICKS

(Second Article in A Series of Four)

I got into my rented car with Mississippi tags and headed back in the direction of Sumner.

When I reached the little town of Webb, about a mile and a half away and almost half way back to Sumner, I noticed a dirt road which I reasoned if it were straight would cut across country and hit the highway leading back to Mound Bayou.

Baltimore, Md.

I stopped the car, consulted my map, reasoned that I was guessing right and headed down the dirt road to take the short cut.

* * *

IF I HAD known then what I know now, I would never have taken that dirt road. Nothing happened to me on it, but subsequent events proved what could have happened.

The road led me in back of the state penitentiary at Parchman, Mississippi, and I heaved a sigh of relief when I finally came out of its unpaved dust and rejoined the main highway.

When I arrived back at Mound Bayou, Simeon Booker, Cloyde Murdock and photographer Jackson of the Johnson Publications out of Chicago were anxious to tell me of an experience they had had on their first day at Sumner.

* * *

THEY HAD gone down to Money, which is below Glendora, and on their way back they, too, had seen the dirt road and reasoned as I did that it was a short cut.

But somehow as they went down the road, they had become turned around and ended up going down a dead end road that led into the fields.

As they approached the dead end, they encountered a truck load of white men all armed with shotgun and pistols driving up the lonely road meeting them.

They stopped, turned around and headed back. Upon questioning the presence of the guns, they were told that the men were "deer hunting."

However, on their arrival back in Mound Bayou, they were told that deer hunting season had not yet started in Mississippi.

* * *

I POINT this out without trying to get into my colleagues' story. They will tell it in detail, I am sure. But I simply point all this out because it happened on the little dirt road which I had gone over a few minutes earlier.

When I arrived back in Mound Bayou, I told Dr. T. R. M. Howard, militant leader of the Delta, what I had found. I then learned that Dr. Howard had certain information which tied in beautifully with what I had.

He had been receiving reports for days that there had been two men on the truck with Emmett Till, but he had not been able to establish who they were.

Afro American

HE ALSO had information on others such as Willie Reed and Mandy Bradley whom he told me were willing to come forward and testify at the proper time.

Dr. Howard had given this information to other colored reporters, but he had warned them not to publish a word about it until he could round up the witnesses and get them out of danger before stories broke in the press that they had valuable information which would lead to a conviction.

p. 2

He stressed upon me and others that once a story got into the papers, their lives would not be worth a nickle.

There then began some of the most trying days of my career as a reporter. I knew I was on something big and I wanted to break it with my papers right away.

* * *

THS QUESTION was how to do so without tipping the white people of Mississippi off and thereby exposing myself and the innocent cotton pickers to bodily harm.

I argued that I should break the story; but Dr. Howard and my colleagues argued "How?"

They warned me that the wires out of Mound Bayou were not safe and they said it would be simply folly to put the story on Western Union and think that it would not get all over town.

All day Monday I worked through the trial almost in a daze, wondering whether I should plunge into my story of the two witnesses or to hold off a little longer as Dr. Howard and the others suggested.

* * *

I FILED copy on the testimony of the Rev. Moses Wright and Mrs. Mamie Bradley and let it go at that. Tuesday I continued to press for a release of the story.

For by this time some of the white reporters had got wind of what we were working on and had asked me if I knew anything of a man named "Too Tight."

In one story I filed through Western Union on Tuesday I alluded strongly to important and new witnesses which might come up in the trial.

I came as near as I could to telling my office that something big was about to break without putting any of the witnesses on the spot.

* * *

THIS WAS the fear which the others had and which I must admit made sense at the time.

They knew that Sheriff Strider of Tallahatchie County was a witness for the defense, that he had said he doubted the body was that of Willie Till and that he had shown hostility to colored people working in the case.

They felt and I agreed that if Strider learned that we were going to produce some eye witnesses to the murder, he would tip off the defense and others working with them and our witnesses would either be spirited away or come to bodily harm.

* * *

AT FIRST this sounded fantastic to me. To think that one could not trust the sheriff.

But when I looked at the hard, cold facts—that Strider had said the body was not Till's, that he was a witness against the state and that if Too Tight was in the Charleston jail, Strider was the man who put him there. I agreed that it did not make sense to tip off Strider.

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We felt that these two men were men we could trust and we ruled out any other whites on the story either because no one in the group knew them well enough — or knew them too well to be trusted.

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NOW WE had agreed that no one but Porteous and Popham would be let in on the story, but when Porteous arrived, he came without Popham and instead had with him two white reporters of the Jackson Mississippi Daily News, regarded by many as one of the most inflammatory papers in the state!

It now appears that Dr. Howard, who had been pledging me to secrecy all the time, had suddenly just thrown the whole story to the wolves.

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WHEN THE three white reporters showed up, Dr. Howard, who had not gone to Memphis sat down with them in an insurance office in Mound Bayou.

Without learning who they were or pledging them to any off the record secrecy, he began to tell them every word of the evidence he had and that which we had produced.

Then after telling them all, he told them that they could not break the story until the next afternoon because he first want-

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THIS IS what he told them:

"Sunday night, a colored man came to me with information that the killing of Till may have happened in Sunflower County. I have looked into this.

"I can produce at least five witnesses at the proper time who will testify that Till was not killed in Tallahatchie County but killed in Sun Flower County about three and a half miles west of Drew in the headquarters shed of the Clint Sheridan Plantation which is managed by Leslie Milam, brother of J. W. Milam, one of the defendants and half brother of Roy Bryant, the other defendant.

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"There were four white men in the cab and three colored men in the back. Photos of Till have been identified. He was in the middle in the back.

"There are witnesses who heard the cries of a boy coming from the shed. They heard blows. They noted that the cries gradually decreased until they were heard no more.

"Later a tractor was moved from the shed. The truck was driven into the shed. The truck came out with a tarpaulin spread over the back. The colored men who went into the shed were not seen at this time and have not been seen around the plantation since."

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The next step was to get the witnesses off the plantation and then have the white reporters tell the DA and the prosecutors that we had them and that they were willing to talk. We broke up the meeting on this note.

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Ruby said there was only one thing to do. That was to go on the plantation and warn the witnesses to leave at once and come to Mound Bayou as soon as possible. But native Mississippians pointed out the problem of that.

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Thus shortly after high noon, Ruby and Newsome, disguised themselves as sharecroppers (Moses, who is about 130 pounds, went away wearing a size 46 pair of overalls and Ruby was wearing a Mother Hubbard dress and a bandana and actually looked for the moment like a sharecropper).

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Continued Next Week)

Synopsis

Informer Sat. 10-15-55 P.1

WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE: In the first installment James L. Hicks gave hard-hitting facts to show that witnesses were in jail, some believed already killed, and some hidden away on plantations, to keep them from testifying in the trial of the murderers of Emmett Till. He tells of going to a church funeral and being mysteriously directed to where he could find the common-law wife of "Too Tight," a key witness, who was then in jail. There is a story of back street roads, "jumping cafe," guarded conversation with "Too Tight's" common-law wife. But Glendora, the home of "Too Tight," got too hot for Hicks and even he had to leave.

The story continues:

se' Of Miss. Terror

Inside Story Of The Till Murder Case

(EDITORIAL NOTE: This is the second installment of four stories, giving the behind-the-scene facts in the Till murder case.)

Informer

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NEW YORK, N. Y. — I got into my rented car with Mississippi tags and headed back in the direction of Sumner. When I reached the little town of Webb about a mile and a half away and almost half way back to Sumner I noticed a dirt road which I reasoned if it were straight would cut across country and hit the highway leading back to Mound Bayou.

Sat. 10-15-55

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P. 1

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Houston Texas

Nothing happened to me on it but subsequent events proved what could have happened.

The road led me in back of the state penitentiary at Parchman, Mississippi and I heaved a sigh of relief when I finally came out of its unpaved dust and rejoined the main highway.

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They had gone down to Money which is below Glendora and on their way back they too had seen the dirt road and reasoned as I did that it was a short cut.

But somehow as they went down the road they had become turned around and ended up going down a dead end road that led into the fields.

As they approached the dead en- they encountered a truck load o white men all armed with shotguns and pistols driving up the lonely road meeting them. They stopped turned around and headed back. Upon questioning the presence of the guns they were told that the men were "deer hunting". However, on their arrival back in Mound Bayou they were told that deer hunting season had not yet started in Mississippi.

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Informer

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P.14

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Dr Howard had given this information to other colored reporters but he had warned them not to publish a word about it until he could round up the witnesses and get them out of danger before stories broke in the press that they had valuable information which lead to a conviction. He stressed upon me and others that once a story got into the papers their lives would not be worth a nickle.

SITTING ON STORY

There then began some of the most trying days of my career as a reporter. I knew I was on something big and I wanted to break it with my papers right away.

The question was how to do so wthout tipping the white people of Mississippi off and thereby exposing myself and the innocent cotton pickers to bodily harm.

I argued that I should break the story. But Dr Howard and my colleagues argued "How". They warned me that the wires out of Mound Bayou were not safe and they said it would simply folly to put the story on Western Union and think that it would not get all over town.

All day Monday I worked though the trial almost in a daze. Wrestling with whether I should plunge into my story of the two witnesses or to hold off a little longer as Dr Howard and the others suggested.

I filed copy on the testimony of the Rev Moses Wright and Mrs Mamie Bradley and let it go at that. Tuesday I continued to press for a release of the story. For by this time some of the white reporters had got wind of what we were working on and had asked me if I knew anything of a man named "Too Tight".

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With the trial recessed we then went back to Mound Bayou. The meeting place with the witnesses was in Cleveland and we were to be there at dark.

When darkness fell I went to the meeting place. There I met a man who is an ardent worker in the NAACP. He told me to park my car and get into his car. Then he drove me to a house which turned out to be the real meeting place.

I later learned that this is the way they do it down there. They announce one place as the site. But when you arrive there it is really not the bona fide place. If you are the right person you are taken from there to the meeting place. If you are not, no one will admit knowing what you are talking about.

(Continued Next Week)

27d 1955

MISSISSIPPI

JAMES L. HICKS

8904

TRUE STORY OF TILL TRIAL

Hicks Tells How Eye-Witnesses To Killing Are Found

Reporter and NAACP Secretary Pose As Sharecroppers To Warn Plantation Workers Their Lives Are in Danger

This is the second installment of "The True Story of the Till Trial" as told by James L. Hicks, reporter for THE CALL and other NNPA newspapers, who covered the trial of the two white men charged with the slaying of 14-year-old Emmett Till in Sumner, Miss.

In the first installment, carried last week, Hicks told how he discovered that a witness to the slaying, "Too Tight" Collins was held in jail to kep him from testifying at the Till trial. He charged further that the prosecutor in the case knew about the witness but closed the trial without making an effort to bring "Too Tight" to the witness stand.

Hicks named a second witness, Henry Lee Loggins, who with Collins was seen on the truck with Emmett Till and several white men on the night the Chicago boy was slain.

The reporter describes his visit to the small town of Glendora, Miss., where he got the information about "Too Tight" and Loggins from a cotton picker who lived with Loggins.

The second installment begins as Hicks is driving back from Glendora to Mound Bayou, where he stayed while covering the trial at near-by Sumner.

By JIMMY L. HICKS

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As they approached the dead end, they encountered a truck load of white men all armed with shotguns and pistols driving up the lonely road meeting them. They stopped, turned around and headed back. Upon questioning the presence of the guns, they were told that the men were "deer hunting." However, on their arrival back in Mound Bayou, they were told that deer hunting season had not yet started in Mississippi.

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Knew About Witnesses

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Then after telling them all, he told them that they could not break the story until the next afternoon because he first wanted to get the witnesses off the plantation.

This is what he told them:

"Sunday night, a Negro came to me with information that the killing of Till may have happened in Sunflower county. I have looked into this. I can produce at least five witnesses at the proper time who will testify that Till was not killed in Tallahatchie county but killed in Sunflower county about three and a half miles west of Drew in the headquarters shed of the Clint Sheridan plantation which is managed by Leslie Milam, brother of J. W. Milam, one of the defendants and half brother of Roy Bryant, the other defendant.

Clean Up Blood Stains

"Word has been brought to me that within the past eight hours efforts have been made to clean up blood stains on the floor of this shed. I am informed that if you reporters will go with the proper authorities in the morning, you may still see some stains and where efforts have been made to remove them.

"I am informed that a 1955 green Chevrolet truck with a white top was seen on the place at 6 a.m., Sunday, August 28, the last time Till was seen alive. There were four white men in the cab and three Negro men in the back. Photos of Till have been identified. He was in the middle in the back.

Heard Boy Cry

"There are witnesses who heard the cries of a boy coming from the shed. They heard blows. They noted that the cries gradually decreased until they were heard no more.

"Later a tractor was moved from the shed. The truck was driven into the shed. The truck came out with a tarpaulin spread over the back. The Negroes who went into the shed were not seen at this time and have not been seen around the plantation since."

Porteous readily agreed to keeping the story off the papers until the next day but James Featherston of the Jackson Daily News told Dr. Howard that he could not promise that he would not print the story until the next day. He said he had been called to come to Mound Bayou for a story, that he had not been told it was off the record and that he was going to print the story as quickly as he could get it in the papers.

Witnesses In Jeopardy

This caused everyone in the room to almost faint because they knew what publication of the story would mean to the witnesses like Willie Reed and Mandy Bradley, who were at the moment still down on the plantation.

It took everyone in the room begging and pleading with Featherston not to break the story. He finally agreed on the condition that on the following night, when the witnesses were produced in Mound Bayou, that no other white reporters be let in on the meeting except the three who were then there.

Dr. Howard, who I'm sure by this time realized his tactical mistake, promised that would be the case.

The next step was to get the witnesses off the plantation and then have the white reporters tell the DA and the prosecutors that we had them and that they were willing to talk. We broke up the meeting on this note.

Somebody Talked

But the white reporters went to the authorities either that night or the first thing the next morning because when the trial recessed the next day, the prosecutors had informed the judge and the governor of the state about the new evidence and the trial came to an abrupt recess to allow the prosecutors to talk with the new witnesses.

Now during cotton picking time in Mississippi, you can't get a cotton picker to leave the plantation during the day unless a white man comes for him. If he does, he is subject to get a good whipping.

Ruby Hurley knew this and knowing this, she became immediately alarmed that we would not be able to get to the witnesses until that night and that since the prosecution already knew about it the defense would also find out about it and that meant that they were still on the spot.

Still with the idea of saving lives, we huddled together with Miss Hurley in Sumner's only tavern to decide what was the next move.

Ruby said there was only one thing to do. That was to go on the plantation and warn the witnesses to leave at once and come to Mound Bayou as soon as possible. But native Mississippians pointed out the problem of that.

Strangers Mean Trouble

They said it meant trouble if any strange colored people showed up on a plantation and then some of the plantation people disappeared. Since we had to go to the plantation of the defendants, they considered this double trouble.

But Ruby was insistent and it was finally agreed that Ruby and a reporter, Moses Newsome of Memphis, would go out on the plantation to warn the people and set up a meeting place for that night and that we would all then meet in a certain place in Cleveland, Miss., where we would talk to the witnesses and then bring them to Mound Bayou, eight miles away, to meet the authorities and the white reporters.

Thus shortly after high noon Ruby and Newsome, disguised themselves as sharecroppers. (Moses, who is about 130 pounds, went away wearing a size 46 pair of overalls and Ruby was wearing a Mother Hubbard dress and a bandana and actually looked for the moment as a sharecropper).

This may sound fantastic, but this is all true, and it is the only way the state produced what few witnesses it did produce, (with the exception of Moses Wright).

They left, borrowed an old battered auto and went out into the plantations.

Next Week: Installment 3.

Hicks Says Key Witnesses In Jail During Till Case Hearing

Daily World Atlanta, Ga.
Dec. 19-4-55

By JAMES L. HICKS

NEW YORK, N. Y.—Here for the first time is the true story of what happened in the hectic five days trial of white men in Sumner, Miss., charged with the murder of 14 year old Emmett Till of Chicago. This story has never been written before. I did not write it while in Mississippi for fear of bodily harm to myself and to my colleagues. No one else has written it because no one else in the capacity of a reporter lived as close to it as I did.

Looking back on it now, I am satisfied that I did not throw caution to the winds and at least try to get out the story exactly as it was unfolding to me. I had tried to, however, that if I had tried I would not be here in New York to write this.

I should like also to add that not only in the stories that I did file from Sumner did I tell a lie. The lie, if I committed one, lies in the fact that the stories that I did write did not dig or go far enough into the truth. It just wasn't safe to do so.

Safely in the safety of New York City and charge, (as I would have been in Sumner, Mississippi)

Sheriff H. C. Strider frustrated the ends of justice by refusing to permit an impartial person to the Charleston jail at Charleston, Miss., to check on his report that Leroy "Too Tight" Collins was not in the Charleston jail.

I further charge, (and with the help of the protection of proper law officials will go back to Mississippi to help prove) that Leroy Collins was in the Charleston jail on Monday at the very hour that the case went to the jury.

I further charge further that Prosecutors Gerald Chatham and Robert Smith were told about this but that they decided that since the Sheriff had given them his word that Collins was not in the jail, they proceeded to close out the case without this man whom everyone believes could have positively fixed the crime on the two white men and seriously implicated at least one other white man.

I finally charge that if Leroy Collins is brought forward at this date and given an opportunity to talk where he is assured that he is not in any danger, he will be able to tell where Henry Lee Loggins is and that the two of them will prove to be the two colored men who were seen on the truck the night of the murder by Moses Wright and Willie Reed.

I believe that Henry Lee Loggins is dead and that he was disposed of because he knew too much about the case.

These are serious charges. But I welcome this opportunity to write down the evidence on which they are based.

This is the fantastic story as lived by this reporter:

On the Sunday before the opening of the trial I attended the funeral of "Kid Townsend, a well-liked colored man who had lived in Sumner virtually all his life.

I had been told that a number of white people would attend the funeral and I felt that it would provide at least a good pretrial story.

I drove into the churchyard, got out my notebook in my hand and went into the church passing a number of colored people standing in the churchyard.

Inside I found the church crowded with no seats and that white people were occupying the two back rows on the left side of the church.

The temperature was about 95 degrees and I decided to stand outside the church and listen to the services after I had been in the church about a half hour. This was easy to do because the church was the typical whitewashed wooden structure and the minister who preached was shouting loud enough to be heard from outside.

Daily World

My notes which I shall constantly refer to in this article, show that the preacher's name was the Rev. W. M. King, that there were 175 colored people in the church and 12 whites including five women, four men and three white children.

My notes also show that I recorded the sermon as being from "Fourth Chapter, Second Timonthy" and beneath I have a quotation read by the minister which said "I have fought the fight, I have kept the faith, I have finished my course."

I was leaning there against the fender of a parked car when a voice behind me said, "Are you down here for the trial?"

Atlanta, Ga.

Up to this point I did not know a single colored person in Sumner and I had tried in the two days I'd been there from spreading the word around that I was a reporter.

But as I turned to face the voice I decided that it would get out anyway so I turned to the man who had addressed me and said "Yes, I'm down on the trial. I'm a reporter."

The man was colored and he said to me "There's a lady behind this car who would like to talk with you. I think you'd be interested in what she has to say."

I turned and looked but saw no one. At that moment the man said "Go behind the car, but don't take out your notebook and write down nothing."

Now at this point I should like to say to the reader, if this whole thing starts off reading like a cheap and fantastic Hollywood movie script, that is exactly what it is going to read like for the entire five days.

But I can also say that every word of it is true and it is written exactly the way I lived it.

I went back of that car and found a woman whom I shall not describe for she told me in the beginning that she was actually endangering her life by talking to me about the trial.

The woman then told me that a boy named "Too Tight" was on the truck the night of the murder and that he had suddenly disappeared and no one knew where he was. She said she did not know "Too Tight's" real name but that she thought she could send me to a place to get all the information I wanted on him "if you aren't afraid to go."

..I told her I was not afraid. Then standing and looking off in another direction she said to me. Go to Glendora. That's about seven miles south of here. Be careful and don't let the people know what you are looking for. Don't talk to any white people. Go to a place called King's. It's the only colored dance hall in town. Hang around there and find the right people. They will tell you "Too Tight's" name and what happened to him. But don't, she said, get caught down there after dark."

..Then she walked away from the car. .....

..As she walked away from the car, the man who had first contacted me came around to where I was standing and I began to ask him more about Glendora. He had just told me that it was one of the roughest towns on colored people in the county when suddenly a car dashed up in front of the church and a white man, J. W. Simpson, editor of the Sumner Sentinel got out.

..Then came one of those odd incidents which I have never been able to put together. Simpson who had been friendly to me on my first arrival in town on Thursday, appeared excited.

..He left his car, rushed over to where I was standing with the man and pointing his finger at me he said, "You're Hicks, aren't you?"

..I was surprised that he would ask such a question for we had had a long conversation the day before but I said, "Thats right—I'm Hicks."

..Then to my surprise he turned on his heels, jumped into his car and drove off down the road.

..The colored man to whom I was talking said, "Something's up. That man wanted to say something to you, but he changed his mind. I don't know whether it was because I was here or not." .....

..At this point I can report that though I saw Mr. Simpson many times after that, he never said anything about his strange action that Sunday. .....

..The incident unnerved the man to whom I was talking and he said, "I'm leaving. If you go to Glendora, good luck. But don't get caught down there after dark."

..As he walked away I looked at my watch. It was three o'clock. I reasoned that with any good luck I could drive down there in 20 minutes and spend an hour or so in town and still make it back to my hotel in Mound Bayou by dark. ..

..So I got into the car and headed immediately for Glendora. .....

..The tavern called King's was not easy to find. I just looked for a large group of colored people on a back street and there was King's.

..It was a typical hangout in a typical Mississippi town. The place was filthy and the cotton pickers who were enjoying their Sunday day off crowded it to the doors.

..At one end of the long hall was what served as a kitchen. Somewhere with the bowels of the place a juke box was giving out with Rock and Roll blues and in the center of the floor couples were dancing attired in all kinds of clothing. Some of the women up to 35 years old were dancing barefooted.

..I stood a long time trying to 'case' the place. I had not had a meal since my Mound Bayou breakfast that morning at seven and I was hungry. But I realized that I only had about a good hour to work in before dark and I wanted to get most out of my time by circulating through the crowd instead of tying myself to an eating table.

..So I elected to spend my hour or so drinking beer and dancing to see what I could find. I walked over to the kitchen and foolishly asked for 'a menu.' .....

..That was a dead giveaway for a stranger and I realize it now. But at the time the words seemed to slip out of my mouth. It seemed that at the time I felt that if I had some reading matter in my hand I could stall a little bit until I made up my mind as to what approach to make.

..When I asked for a menu of a girl waitress, a man behind the counter spoke up and said, "We don't have any menu. But we can fix you most anything you want." Then he asked the question I knew was coming.

"Where you from?"

..You simply can't escape it in the south. They can spot a stranger a mile away.

I could tell by the authorizatative way the man spoke that he must be the owner or manager, so I answered, "Oh, I'm from up the way a bit" and gradually I drew him into conversation.

After trying to convince him that I was merely a drifting guy who had dropped in his place for a beer or two—and convincing myself that I hadn't convinced him of anything, I came at him right down the middle:"

"Whatever happened to my boy "Too Tight?" I said.

The man stopped as if I had hit him in the face. I looked over to my right and some men seated at a table playing "Georgia Skin" dropped their cards and turned to look at me at the mention of the name 'Too Tight."

I knew then that I was on the trail of something big.

But I also knew that the man to whom I was talking would not talk to me in the hearing distance of the others so I grabbed him by his arm and moved over in a direction away from the "Skinners" and nearer the kitchen all the while saying "Let's have a beer."

He said nothing until he got me a beer. (He did not take one). Then he moved over to me and said, "What do you want with 'Too Tight?"

..I told him "Too Tight" was a friend of mine, and that I was in

hi; town an decided to look him up.

He looked all around and said "Too Tight" is in jail."

"In jail," I said. What have they got Too Tight in jail for? He never bothered anybody."

The man looked at me and said, "See that chick over there," pointing to a girl seated near the wall. "She can tell you about Too Tight."

While I drank my beer, I stood there trying to figure how to best approach the girl who had the key to what I was looking for. She was seated with a big, husky guy and the lastthing I wanted to do was to become involved with a man for "hitting on" his girl friend.

But all around me I noticed that when the other men wanted to dance they didn't ask the women for a dance. They just walk up, grab the woman by the arm and start dancing.

I felt my time was running out and I decided to try the bold approach. So I walked over to where she was seated, grabbed her by the hand and said "Let's dance."

She was up on her feet in a flash and I swirled her out in the middle of the floor into the crowd as fast as I could hoping that the big guy at the table wasn't mad at me.

She spoke first And her questions were the usual. "Where you from?" I told her that I was from up in Sumner and I was looking for my friend "Too Tight."

"Too Tight," said, 'he's in jail."

I expressed surprise. "In jail for what," I said. 'I don't know," she answered. They came and got him Monday a week ago."

I let fly then with a barrage of questions determined to get them all in before the dance was over and the big guy came to claim her. I asked her if she had been to see him in jail. She said no.

"You mean to tell me," I said, "that your boy friend has been in jail a week and you haven't been to see him?"

She said, "Too Tight isn't my boy friend He lived with us!"

I asked her what was 'Us" and she said, "Me and my husband."

"Is that your husband over at the table?" I asked. "No," she answered 'He's in jail, too."

"What did they get him for?" I asked. "I don't know," she said. Both of them worked for one of those white men who kidnapped that boy from Chicago and they came and got both of them."

I then asked her what jail they were in and if she had been to see her husband She said she had not —that she had been even afraid to talk about it to anyone.

I asked then what her name was. She told me. I then asked her what her husband's name was. She said "Henry Lee Loggins."

Then I asked her what to me was the 864 question in Glendora. "What," I said, "is Too Tight's real name? I've known him a long time but all I know is Too Tight."

She came right down the middle. "His real name is Leroy Collins," she said.

She then told me that Too Tight lived with his grandfather on the Aklet farm near Glendora (about a mile and half away) but that he stayed in town so much that he had just started living with her and "her husband."

I then tried to get real chummy with her. I complimented her on her dancing and her hair and I asked her if I could come back down to Glendora and take her out. Then for the first time I noticed that she was barefooted.

"We'll go to the jail first and see your husband," I said. "And then we can go out and have a few drinks."

She said that would be all right if I got back before 10 o'clock that night I told her then that I didn't mean that I was coming back that same night but that I had planned to come down and pick her up the next day.

"I can't do that." she said, "I'll be picking cotton all during the day next week."

I told her that we couldn't get into the jail at night and that I'd pay her what she would make picking cotton if she would stay home from work the next day and go to jail with me."

"I'd like to do it." she said, 'but I'd get a beating."

I asked her who would beat her and she said that the white for whom she worked came around and whipped everyone who didn't go out into the cotton fields and pick his cotton. "Even if they are sick, he whips them," she said.

I asked her to come with me while I ate something and she readily consented completely ignoring the big guy at the table where she had been seated.

I ordered beef stew and sat down with her at a table. As hungry as I was, I couldn't go for the stew, so I pushed it away and told her I was about ready to leave. She then showed me where she lived and I promised to come back to Glendora some night. I never went back.

Things simply got too hot.

(End of Instalment No. 1)

Hicks Tells Why He Had to Go Back To 'Ole Miss'

Fri, 11-25-55
Kansas City
P. 2

Couldn't Live With Himself And Stay Scared

By JAMES L. HICKS

NEW YORK, N. Y. (NNPA)—During the Emmett Till murder trial at Sumner, Miss., I was humiliated, insulted and finally arrested for my activity along with other reporters in trying to round up witnesses for the prosecution.

When the announcement was made that indictment proceedings would be held against the two white men at Greenwood, Miss., this newspaper published a report that I would go back to Mississippi to cover these proceedings.

As soon as the announcement was made public, my wife, my mother, many of my close friends and many readers whom I have never met warned me in phone calls, personal messages and through letters to my paper, telling me not to go back to Mississippi.

When I told them that I was going back, many of them asked me why. Some said I was either foolishly trying to get my neck broken — or I was making a grandstand play for a few readers.

I think it is only fair that I now tell WHY I went back to Mississippi.

I think that I should begin by saying that my editors did not SEND me back. On the contrary, one of the letters I have earmarked for my scrapbook, is one from my executive offices in Baltimore telling me of the kidnapping indictment proceedings which was then coming up and stating that the paper would have a reporter down there to cover it.

The letter expressed an awareness of the difficulty I had gone through on the murder trial and then left it up to me as to whether I would be the reporter assigned to go back.

I answered the letter and asked for the assignment. I got it and I went back.

I went back for a number of reasons.

The first reason I went back is because I felt I HAD to go back to Mississippi if I were going to continue in my work as a newspaperman.

Scared During Trial

You see, the white people of Mississippi actually frightened me during the Sumner murder trial. I have never denied it — I was scared all the time I was there and I was very happy when it was all over and I could get out of there.

Now the mere fact that I was frightened during the murder trial didn't worry me too much. I've been scared before on assignments such as Korea and the second atomic bomb explosion.

But the thing that really did worry me was the fact that I was still frightened and scared when I LEFT Mississippi. There's a big difference. In Korea I was scared when there was a break through by the enemy or when a mortar fell too close to me — but always when that particular phase of the attack was over I felt the same again.

But in Mississippi the difference was that I became frightened while there and remained frightened up to the very moment that I left there. It was only when I got back and realized this that I also realized that I had to go back to Mississippi.

Like Airplane Fear

To me it was just like being frightened on an airplane when something goes wrong and finally getting back on the ground alive. I have a feeling that if you don't get back on a plane at your earliest opportunity — you may never get on another one because of your fear.

I recall once being on a Pan American Stratocruiser which caught fire ten minutes after we left Honolulu enroute to Korea. Flames engulfed the plane while we were in the air and it seemed a miracle that the pilot was able to get us back to Honolulu without all of us getting killed.

But we did get back safely and they repaired the plane in two days. On the third day when they announced to the 60 passengers that the plane was ready to take off again, only 20 of the 60 agreed to get back on it. Some caught boats and others said they would wait for at least another plane.

I was scared — but I was one of the 20 who got back on the same plane. A white correspondent who was traveling with me at the time decided he would catch a boat. He did. I see him every day here in New York now. But he has never been on another plane. He openly says now that he's just too scared to do so after the Honolulu incident.

I believe that if he had got back on that plane with the other 20 of us he would still be flying today. And he needs to fly in his job.

I though of him when I decided to go back to Mississippi. The way I look at it Mississippi and the Till case is just ONE of a series of such racial incidents and outbreaks which are certain to pop up all over the South in the immediate future as integration is stepped up.

And every such incident should, and must be covered by the colored press. You can't get around it. Somebody has got to be there to tell the world what's going on. Who is better qualified to do this than a colored reporter.

And I'm a colored reporter.

I felt I had to go back to Mississippi if I intended to keep on being a colored reporter.

The second reason I went back was also personal. I just didn't want to admit to myself that I was actually afraid to go to any part of this country for which I gave blood, sweat and tears during the last war.

I'm an American and Mississippi is still a part of America though many white people down there refuse to act like it. I just didn't want to admit to myself that the flag that I followed and fought for, the flag that I love and respect would not be with me in any part of America.

So I asked to go back.

My return trip was not a rewarding one. If I had doubts on the first trip about Mississippi being in complete defiance of the U.S. flag, all the doubt was erased by my second trip. I know now that the state of Mississippi is already in complete rebellion against all the ideals of American which I have been taught to love and respect.

But I have one satisfaction as the result of my second visit.

I'm not afraid of Mississippi anymore.

It was just like getting back on that plane the second time. Today I'm not afraid to fly in anything that soars through the air and if and when they get rockets to the moon I'm going to ask to be in the first group of reporters who fly up there.

And the same thing goes for Mississippi.

I've now seen the white people down there for what they really are — a group of cowardly baby murders who operate in the still of night only at times when the odds are weighted in their favor.

And I'm not afraid of them anymore. I'll go back to Mississippi to cover a baby murder, a race riot, or the annual convention of the White Citizens Council.

I went back. I'm glad I went back, and I'll go back again and again as long as it's a part of America.

And if Mississippi tries to secede — I'll be among the first to volunteer to pick up a gun and go back down there and help whip them back into the Union.

I'm not afraid anymore!

Why Hicks just had to go back to Mississippi

The American
Sept. 11-26-55

By JAMES L. HICKS

NEW YORK (NNPA)—During the Emmett Till murder trial at Sumner, Miss., I was humiliated, insulted and finally arrested for my activity along with other reporters in trying to round up witnesses for the prosecution.

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Baltimore MD

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The American

The letter expressed an awareness of the difficulty I had gone through on the murder trial and then left it up to me as to whether I would be the reporter assigned to go back.

I answered the letter and asked for the assignment. I got it and I went back.

I went back for a number of reasons.

First of all, I returned because I felt I "had" to go back to Mississippi if I were to continue in my work as a newspaperman.

You see, the white people of Mississippi actually frightened me during the Sumner murder trial. I have never denied it—I was scared all the time I was there and I was very very happy when it was all over and I could get out of there.

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To me it was just like being frightened on an airplane when something goes wrong and finally getting back on the ground alive. I have a feeling that if you don't get back on a plane at your earliest opportunity — you may never get on another.

* * *

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* * *

I BELIEVE that if he had got back on that plane with the other 20 of us he would still be flying today. And he needs to fly in his job.

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And every such incident should, and must be covered by the colored press. You can't get around it. Somebody has got to be there to tell the world what's going on. Who is better qualified to do this than a colored reporter?

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* * *

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* * *

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I went back, I'm glad I went back, and I'll go back again and again as long as it's a part of America.

And if Mississippi tries to secede—I'll be among the first to volunteer to pick up a gun and help whip them back into the Union.

27d 1955

MISSISSIPPI

JAMES L. HICKS

8907

Mockery Of Justice Seen By Writer At Miss. Lynch Trial

Daily World Atlanta, Ga. 9-27-55
Thurs. 9-29-55

BY JAMES L. HICKS
Correspondent for NNPA

SUMNER, Miss.— An all white male jury of sharecroppers demonstrated here Friday that the constitutional guarantees of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" do not apply to the colored citizens of their state.

The mockery of the sacred constitutional guarantees was made by these sharecroppers in 65 short minutes of deliberation in the outmoded, antiquated Sumner, Miss. courtroom where they returned a verdict of "not guilty" against two white men charged with the Aug. 28 killing of 14 year old Emmett (Bob) Till.

LOST REASON

Mississippi thus stands in the eyes of the nation today as a place where judgment and fair play have flown to the four winds and where men either have lost their reason or refuse to recognize it when they are faced by it.

For if ever there was reasoning and logic based on stark cold facts laid before a jury of the people of a state, it was laid before the people of Mississippi during the five days of this historical trial which ended here Friday.

This reporter a skeptic of Mississippi's white man justice had been amazed all week as the orderly procedure of law slowly but surely spun a web of conviction around the two white men.

SIDE OF DECENCY

I had come here almost with a preconceived idea that it would be a mockery of justice from the first day of the trial. But the state spun its web around the two men in the five days I stayed up late and long each night writing and getting ready to cheer a state which I felt was coming over to the side of decency and fair play when the rest of the world was saying that it couldn't be done.

And up to the very moment that the jury of white sharecroppers came out of the jury room to announce their verdict, I was inwardly cheering and rooting for the people of Mississippi as loud and long as I root for the Brooklyn Dodgers.

For in the five days conduct of the trial, Mississippi just didn't follow the script written for her by the rest of the world.

Instead of a mock court of law, the little courtroom at Sumner began to stand out as a hallowed place of justice.

No prosecutors anywhere in the United States could have worked harder or longer for a conviction than did District Attorney Gerald Chatham and Special Prosecutor Robert B. Smith, both native white sons of this state.

And no judge whether on the Supreme Court bench or the rickety rocking chair of the bench at Sumner, could have been more painstaking and eminently fair in the conduct of the trial than Judge Curtis W. Swango of Sardis Miss.

TWO WHITE MEN

And it must be stated that never in the history of this reporter's long years of court reporting has he seen a weaker and more inflammatory case based on pure fantasy such as was presented by the battery of five white lawyers who defended the two white men.

Thus as the case went to the jury of sharecroppers the picture was one of the underdog taking possession of the ball and the opening kickoff and marching down the field time after time to score against the favorite.

Contrary to expectations the lawyers for the prosecution proved able and aggressive. Notwithstanding the pre trial charges of "fix," the judge in the case was a paragon of jurisprudence. And in spite of charges of intimidation colored witnesses paraded to the witness stand to point accusing fingers at the accused to make a solid and strong case for the state.

Add all this to the fact that the defense had the weakest of cases and you have the picture as the case went to the jury.

It was a time of great decision for the State of Mississippi and this reporter, based on the facts before him, was rooting for it to win.

BLIND SPOT

But now I know what seasoned Southern writers meant when they laughed at me whenever I said during the trial that I felt the men would be convicted.

Now I know, as they knew before me, that the hidden factor in the backwardness of this state is the blind spot of racial prejudice in the eyes of its sharecropper people which prevents them from seeing and thinking straight when they look upon a black face.

Now I know that the masses of people in Mississippi are still not ready for the enlightened democracy in the world of free men which our statesmen speak so freely of in the forums of the world. In the past five days I saw the good and decent people of this state both white and black, weighed on the scales of justice and found wanting.

I did not know then, but I know now, what tips the balance of the scales against them.

FEW ENLIGHTENED

The scales are unbalanced because back in the hinterlandlands of the state from which they picked the jury such as we had at Sumner there is a horde of people living in a darkness that few enlightened Americans can visualize.

Theirs is still the law of the jungle and the jungle is far more darker and many times greater than the small island of light and justice in the state.

Mississippi simply is not ready.

Today the jungles of Mississippi are laughing at their mockery of justice—but the rest of the 47 states might well be crying for Mississippi.

Hicks Disappointed in Till Case Inactivity

(An open letter to United States Attorney General Herbert Brownell and FBI chief, J. Edgar Hoover)

BY JAMES L. HICKS

Gentlemen:

As an American I have been deeply disappointed that the arm of the federal government headed by your respective offices has not seen fit to enter into the murder of 14 year old Emmett Till of Chicago.

Call

As a citizen interested in following the case I have recently picked up rumors that at long last either or both of your offices may finally take up an investigation of the case.

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And as a newspaperman interested in simple justice I submit herewith to your high offices certain information on the case which I know to be true and which I feel certain if aggressively pursued, will prove to the world that four white men, aided by two colored men, killed Emmett Till and threw his body into the Tallahatchie River.

Key in Glendora

Jw 11-25-55

Here are the facts in detail:

The key to the murder is a little city called Glendora, Mississippi, about seven miles south of Sumner, Mississippi.

Kansas City

Send an FBI agent to Glendora. Tell him to find Reid's cafe located in the heart of the colored section of town. It's not hard to find.

Tell him to stand in front of the front door of Reid's cafe facing the door. Then tell him that on his right at what would correspond to three o'clock on a watch there will be located a small one room shack about forty yards from the door of the cafe.

Tell your agent to knock on that door. Inside he will find a mother with three young children. Her name is Mrs. Henry Lee Loggins. She will tell you that she is not married to Henry Loggins but that she is his common law wife and that he is the father of all three of her children.

Mrs. Loggins works for J. W. Milam, one of the defendants in the Till murder trial. She picks cotton on his plantation. Her husband, Henry Lee also works for Milam. He drives a cotton picker for Milam.

Took Two Men Away

If you question this woman she will tell you that at one time shortly before the death of Emmett Till a man named Levy (Too Tight) Collins lived with her and Loggins in the little house there in Glendora. Too Tight also worked on the Milam farm. She will further tell you that after Till was killed, and shortly before the murder trial took place at Sumner "the white folks" came and took both Too Tight and Loggins.

If you ask her where they took them she will tell you that they told her that they were being taken to the Charleston jail at Charleston, that they were going to be kept there for about two weeks and that they were not going to be harmed.

Remember that name — the Charleston Jail, for it is important. But just for the moment turn your attention again to Glendora.

Stand now directly in front of Mrs. Loggin's little shack. If you face the door on your right directly at three o'clock will be a doorway leading into a brick building. This is the back door of a building on the main colored street.

How To Find Them

Knock on that door. Inside you will find that this is an undertaker's parlor and the home offices of one of the many burial societies owned by colored people in Mississippi.

parlor and the home offices of one of the many burial societies owned by colored people in Mississippi.

Talk to the people there. I'm not at liberty to call their names. But if you shop around you will be directed to other people who will tell you how to locate the father of Henry Lee Loggins.

Go to Henry Lee Loggins father. Press him. He will be reluctant to talk and when you finally hear his story you will easily understand why he is reluctant to talk.

But when you finally get his story he will tell you that his son Henry has confessed to him that he was on the murder truck the night Emmett Till was killed. He can tell you that his son has named to him the four white men, instead of two who participated in the murder. He will tell you that the two other white men involved along with Roy

Bryant and J. W. Milam were relatives of Milam, that one of them was a close relative who has already been named by Willie Reed and that the other is a relative who lives at Itta Bena, Mississippi.

But don't stop with the testimony of Henry's father. Ask him about the minister. Ask him to give you the name of the colored minister to whom Henry has also confessed being on that murder truck.

NAACP officials have pleaded with this same minister to come forward and tell his story but he's afraid and will not do so. Get the name of this minister from Loggin's father.

Held in Confidence

If he will not give you his name, as a last resort, I will call an NAACP official in Clarksdale and beg him to release me from an "off the record" confidence and give it to you myself. This NAACP official has literally begged the minister to tell the world what Loggins told him but he will not do so.

Go back across the short space to the home of Mrs. Loggins. You can talk more intelligently now and when she discovers that you know something she will tell you more.

Many Strange Actions

Ask her where her husband Henry is. She will tell you that he is on the Milam farm daily but that he does not come home every night. Ask her where you can put your finger on him.

Then ask her when was the last time she saw "Too Tight" Collins. See if she will not tell you that she has seen him since October 10, the date on which the Chicago Defender released him and sent him back to Mississippi. Make her tell you where Too Tight is and you will explode the lie that J. W. Milam is trying to spread throughout Mississippi that "Too Tight" is missing since the Defender took him north to Chicago. Too Tight is still in Mississippi working for J. W. Milam.

Ask her where Too Tight's father is. She will point south and tell you that he is on a plantation just three miles away on the Eagle farm. He can tell you a lot about the strange actions and mysterious disappearances of his son since the death of Emmett Till.

Now before you leave Glendora drop into Reid's cafe. Talk to some of the cotton pickers hanging around there. Listen to them tell you of the big talk that has been made by Too Tight since he came back South from Chicago. Listen to them tell how Too Tight boasts that the hole in the Till's boy's head was not a bullet hole at all but was a hole drilled into his head with a brace and hit by one of the white men.

Go then on up to Sumner, just seven miles north and drop into Jesse Griffin's place. Talk to the guys up there and hear the same thing from the cotton pickers who hang around. Ask them to tell, as they told me on my second visit to Sumner, how Too Tight sat around in the tavern and told them that at one time during that fateful morning he was on the back of the truck with Emmett Till when they found that despite the punishment, the boy was still not dead.

They will tell you that Too Tight told them that he decided that he had seen all he could stand and that he jumped up on the side of the truck to get off. But they say he told them that J. W. Milam pulled his gun on him and told him if he got off that truck he would blow out his brains.

Remember Charleston Jail

Now remember I asked you to remember the name Charleston Jail. Go to the Charleston jail and find there a young colored woman named Sarah who is serving a life term for killing a rival woman about her husband.

Sarah is a "trusty" at the jail. She is rather young, not too bad looking and she cooks for the inmates of the jail. If you investigate Sarah closely you will find that "cooking" is not the only thing she does for the men in the jail. She also performs other services for them including serving the sheriff.

For her services Sarah is given certain privileges which she does not wish to give up. Therefore Sarah will be reluctant to talk. But make Sarah talk and she will tell you that during the Sumner murder trial when Sheriff H. C. Strider was saying that he could not locate Too Tight Collins, that actually Collins was at that time locked up in the Charleston jail.

I have been informed that the Federal government is looking for an "in" through which to get into the Till murder case. I'm also informed that one of the ways the Federal government can get into the case is by proving that at the time of the murder trial, key witnesses were prevented by law officers from testifying.

A Key Witness

I submit that Too Tight Collins was a key witness. I submit that Sarah can prove that Collins was in jail during the trial. And I ask you: If Collins was in the Charleston jail — who put him there? A law officer of course. And who is the principal law officer — Sheriff H. C. Strider.

One final word. Mandy Bradley is a courageous woman and took the stand to testify as to what she saw and heard during the killing of Young Till. But her husband, Alonzo Bradley was not so courageous. He was there with his wife and saw and heard all she heard. But he was afraid to testify.

After Mandy Bradley testified against J. W. Milam, we got her out of Mississippi. The night after she testified Alonzo Bradley went back to his home on the Milam farm — a foolish thing to do in Mississippi.

J. W. Milam came to his shack and ordered him to leave at once. Alonzo Bradley left. For days he scouted around in Mississippi trying to raise enough money to get to Chicago and join his wife.

Helped Him Get Out

On my second trip to Mississippi I contacted Alonzo Bradley and helped him to get out of Mississippi. He is now in Chicago with his wife. Before he left he told me that Leslie Milam had ordered him off the Milam farm at gun point. He also told me some other things which would be of great help to you if you are investigating the Till murder. Talk to Alonzo Bradley.

There is one more man y o u should talk with. His name is Frank Young. On the night we rounded up witnesses in Mississippi, Frank Young was one of the colored men who came forward at three o'clock in the morning to the office of County Supervisor Townsend at Drew Mississippi. He told us he had knowledge of the murder but before he talked he wanted to first talk with Dr. T. R. M. Howard and get assurances that he would not be harmed.

He made this statement in the offices of the county supervisor. He knew when he came there that he had been asked to come for only one purpose — to tell what he knew of the murder of Emmett Till.

Did Not Appear

Unfortunately when Frank Young came in Dr. Howard was not there. He hung around and waited until after 4:30 a.m. until finally the white woman who had brought him in off her plantation grew tired and took him back.

They promised that Frank Young would take the witness stand the following day. But he never did. Frank Young has not been mentioned in connection with the trial since.

What did Frank Young have to tell?

He is easy to locate. Just go to Drew, Mississippi to the offices of County Supervisor Townsend. Mr. Townsend can pick up the phone and call the plantation on which Young works and the white woman he works for will bring him in. That's the way they did it that night in Mississippi.

And finally go to Henry Lee Loggins. Ask Loggins if it is not a fact that on the Saturday before the recent indictment proceedings he was scheduled to go to St. Louis on a trip financed by a Chicago newspaper and that on arrival there was supposed to tell all he knew about the Till murder.

Ask him if it is not a fact that he was taken by reporters on a round of goodbyes to all his girl friends and that finally he was taken to his home to say goodbye to his mother. Ask him if it is not a fact that his mother broke down and begged him not to go. Ask him if it's not a fact that he then decided to call the whole thing off, returned the spending money he had been given and stayed in Mississippi where he is now.

And finally ask Henry Lee Loggins if it is not a fact that he has admitted that he is afraid to tell all he knows about the Till murder because he himself was an accomplice in the crime.

If there is any additional service I can be to you two gentlemen, if and when you decide to go or send someone to investigate this murder in Mississippi, I stand ready at anytime to help in whatever way possible.

Respectfully,
James L. Hicks

Hicks Tells Of Daring Efforts To Get Witnesses In Till Case

Daily World
Jans. 10-11-55
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EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the second installment of the account by "Jimmy" Hicks, special reporter for the Atlanta Daily World and the National Negro Publishers Association, about the behind-the-scenes activities surrounding the Emmett Till murder case in Mississippi. In the first installment, Hicks told of the efforts of the Negro press corps to locate one Leroy "Too Tight" Collins. In it, he feared that by this time, "Too Tight" would be dead. However, since then, we have learned that he is now safe in Chicago having escaped from Mississippi. Read how Hicks and others continued their attempts to get significant witnesses to testify in the Till murder case).

Atlanta, Ga.

BY JIMMY L. HICKS

I got into my rented car with Mississippi tags and headed back in the direction of Sumner.

When I arrived back at Mound Bayou, Simeon Booker, Cloytyde Murdock and photographer Jackson of the Johnson Publications out of Chicago were anxious to tell me of an experience they had had on their first day at Sumner.

They had gone down to Money which is below Glendora and on their way back they, too, had seen a dirt road and reasoned that it was a short cut.

But somehow as they went down the road, they had become turned around and ended up going down a dead en road that led into the fields.

As they approached the dead end, they encountered a truck load of white men all armed with shotguns and pistols driving up the lonely road meeting them. They stopped, turned around and headed back. Upon questioning the presence of the guns, they were told that the men were "deer hunting." However, on their arrival back in Mound Bayou, they were told that deer hunting season had not yet started in Mississippi.

I point this out without trying to get into my colleagues story. I simply point all this out because it happened on the little dirt road which I had gone over a few minutes earlier.

When I arrived back in Mount Bayou, I told Dr. T. R. M. Howard, militant leader of the Delta, what I had found. I then learned that Dr. Howard had certain information which tied in beautifully with what I had.

REPORTS CONFIRMED

He had been receiving reports for days that there had been two men on the truck with Emmett Till but he had not been able to establish who thew were. He also had information on others such as Willie Reed and Mandy Bradley whom he told me were willing to come forward and testify at the proper time.

Dr. Howard had given this information to other colored reporters but he had warned them not to publish a word about it until he could round up the witnesses and get them out of danger before stories broke in the press that they had valuable information which might lead to a conviction. He stressed upon me and others that once a story got into the papers, their lives would not be worth a nickle.

There then began some of the most trying days of my career as a reporter. I knew I was on something big and I wanted to break it with my papers right away.

The question was how to do so without exposing myself and the innocent cotton pickers to bodily harm.

I argued that I should break the story; but Dr. Howard and my colleagues argued "How?" They warned me that the wires out of Mound Bayou were not safe.

All day Monday I worked through the trial almost in a daze. Wrestling with whether I should plunge into my story of the two witnesses or to hold off a little longer as Dr. Howard and the others suggested.

I filed copy on the testimony of the Rev. Moses Wright and Mrs. Mamie Bradley and let it go at that. Tuesday I continued to press for a release of the story. For by this time some of the white reporters had got wind of what we were working on and had asked me if I knew anything of a man named Too Tight.

ALLUDES TO WITNESSES

In one story I filed through Western Union on Tuesday I alluded strongly to important and new witnesses which might come up in the trial. I came as near as I could to telling my office that something big was about to break without putting any of the witnesses on the spot.

This was the fear which the others had and which I must admit made sense at te time. They knew that Sheriff Strider of Tallahatchie County was a witness for the defense, that he had said he doubted the body was that of Till and that he had shown hostility to colored people working in the case.

They felt and I agreed that if Strider learned that we were going to produce some eye witnesses to the murder, he would tip off the defense and others working with them and our witnesses would either be spirited away or come to bodily harm.

At first this sounded fantastic to me. To think that one could not trust the sheriff. But when I looked at the hard, cold facts that Strider had said the body was not Till's, that he was a witness against the state and that if Too Tight was in the Charleston jail, Strider was the man who put him there, I6 agreed that it did not make sense to tip off Strider.

Then Ruby Hurley, NAACP field secretary, came to town and I told Ruby what my problem was and told her that I could not see how I could sit on the story any longer, no matter who was threatened by its publication.

Dr. Howard and my colleagues were all against my filing the story. They kept saying, "We don't want anybody to get killed. Wait."

I put it up squarely to Ruby. She came through like a champion. She said that the evidence which we had was enough to stop the trial and shift it over to Sunflower County. (Our witnesses were willing to testify that the crime was committed in Sunflower County instead of Tallahatchie County)

And she pointed out that if the case went to the jury in Tallahatchie County, the two men would never have to stand trial again in another county because of double jeopardy. She said it was important that the evidence be made public right away before the case closed and went to the jury.

PLAN NEW EVIDENCE

Ruby won the day on that point. But she stated that the story should be given the widest possible play in the dailies so that public pressure could help to step in and stop the trial.

This meant that we had to call in white reporters since many of the weekly papers had already gone to press. But who?

Simeon Booker, a Nieman fellow, suggested the name of Clark Porteous of the Memphis Press Scimitar who is also a Nieman Fellow. I suggested that we add to it John Popham of the New York Times who was covering the story for the Times.

Daily World

We agreed that we would call them in on it right away and that we'd have they ask the sheriff where Too Tight was and to notify the Prosecutor and the District Attorney that we had new evidence to produce if they could offer the witnesses protection.

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It was here that Dr. Howard committed what I will always feel was a tactical mistake. He was seated there in my room and suddenly he said he was going to Memphis to meet Congressman Diggs. Our agreement was sealed that we would notify Porteous and Popham and no one else.

Dr. Howard left. But a few minutes later we got word that Porteous and a "carload of reporters from Clarksdale" were coming down to hear the "story of the new witnesses."

It now appears that Dr. Howard, who had been pledging me to secrecy all the time, had suddenly just thrown the whole story to the wolves. We ten began to wonder what would happen to our witnesses because through our underground with them, we had informed them that nothing would appear in the press until they were off the plantations in safe hands.

TELLS NEW EVIDENCE

When the three white reporters showed up, Dr. Howard, who had not gone to Memphis sat down with them in an insurance office in Mound Bayou. Without learning who they were or pledging them to any off the record secrecy, he began to tell them every word of the evidence he had and that which we had produced.

Then after telling them all, he told them they could not break the story until the next afternoon because he first wanted to get the witnesses off the plantation.

This is what he told them:

"Sunday night, a Negro came to me with information that the killing of Till may have happened in Sunflower County. I have looked into this. I can produce at least five witnesses at the proper time who will testify tat Till was not killed in Tallahatchie County but killed in Sun Flower County about tree and a half miles west of Drew in the headquarters shed of the Clint Sheridan Plantation which is managed by Leslie Milam, brother of J. W. Milam, one of the defendants and half brother of Roy Bryant, the other defendant.

"Word has been brought to me that within the past eight hours that efforts have been made to clean up blood stains on the floor of this shed. I am informed that you reporter will go with the proper authorities in the morning, you may still see some stains and where efforts have been made to remove them.

"I am informed that a 1955 Green Chevrolet truck with a white top was seen on the place at 6 a. m. Sunday, August 28, the last time Till was seen alive. There were four white men in the cab and three Negro men in the back. Photos of Till have been identified. He was in the middle in the back.

"There are witnesses who heard the cries of a boy coming from the shed. They heard blows. They noted that the cries gradually decreased until they were heard no more. "Later a tractor was moved from the shed. The truck was driven into the shed. The truck came out with a tarpaulin spread over the back. The Negroes who went into the shed were not seen at this time and have not been seen around the plantation since."

Porteous readily agreed to keeping the story of the papers until the next day but James Featherson of the Jackson Daily News told Dr. Howard that he could not promise that he would not print the story the next day. He said he had been called to come to Mound Bayou for a story, that he had not been told it was off the record and that he was going to print the story as quickly as he could get it in the papers.

This caused everyone in the room to almost faint because they knew what publication of the story would mean to the witnesses like Willie Reed and Mandy Bradley, who were at that moment still down on the plantation.

It took everyone in the room

begging and pleading with Featherson not to break the story. He finally agreed on the condition that on the following night, when the witnesses were produced in Mound Bayou, that no other white reporters be let in on the meeting except the three who were then there. Dr. Howard, who I'm sure by this time realized his tactical mistake, promised that would be the case.

GOES AFTER WITNESSES

The next step was to get the witnesses off the plantation and then have the white reporters tell the DA and the prosecutors that we had them and that they were willing to talk. We broke up the meeting on this note.

But the white reporters went to the authorities either that night or the first thing the next morning because when the trial recessed the next day, the prosecutors had informed the judge and the Governor of the State about the new evidence and the trial came to an abrupt recess to allow the prosecutors to talk with the new witnesses.

Now during cotton picking time in Mississippi, you can't get a cotton picker to leave the plantation during the day unless a white man comes for him.

Ruby Hurley knew this and knowing this, she became immediately alarmed that we would not be able to get to the witnesses until that night and that since the prosecution already knew about it the defense would also find out about it and that meant that they were still on the spot.

Still with the idea of saving lives, Ruby said there was only one thing to do. That was to go on the plantation and warn the witnesses to leave at once and come to Mound Bayou as soon as possible. But native Mississippians pointed out the problem of that.

They said it meant trouble if any strange colored people showed up on a plantation and then some of the plantation people disappeared. Since we had to go to the plantation of the defendants, they considered this double trouble.

But Ruby was insistent and it was finally agreed that Ruby and a reporter would go out on the plantation to warn the people and set up a meeting place for that night, and then bring them to Mound Bayou, eight miles away, to meet the authorities and the white reporters.

Thus shortly after high noon, Ruby and a reporter, disguised as sharecroppers, for these new witnesses.

(This may sound fantastic, but this is all true and it is the only way the state produced what few witnesses it did produce, with the exception of Moses Wright).

They left, borrowed an old battered auto and went out into the plantations.

(End of Installment No. 2)

(More on a Future Date)

"I'm Not Afraid Anymore"

Hicks Tells Why He Had To Return To Mississippi

By JAMES L. HICKS

NEW YORK, N. Y. — (NNPA' — During the Emmett Till murder trial at Sumner, Mississippi I was humiliated, insulted and finally arrested for my activity along with other reporters in trying to round up witnesses for the prosecution.

When the announcement was made that indictment proceedings would be held against the two white men at Greenwood, Mississippi, this newspaper published a report that I would go back to Mississippi to cover these proceedings.

As soon as the announcement was made public, my wife, my mother, many of my close friends and many readers whom I have never met warned me in phone calls, personal messages and through letters to my paper, telling me not to go back to Mississippi.

When I told them that I was going back, many of them asked me why. Some said I was either foolishly trying to get my neck broken—or I was making a grandstand play for a few readers.

I think it is only fair that I now tell WHY I went back to Mississippi.

I think that I should begin by saying that my editors did not SEND me back. On the contrary, one of the letters I have earmarked for my scrapbook, is one from my executive offices in Baltimore telling me of the kidnapping indictment proceedings which was then coming up and stating that the paper would have a reporter down there to cover it.

The letter expressed an awareness of the difficulty I had gone through on the murder trial and then left it up to me as to whether I would be the reporter assigned to go back.

ASKED FOR ASSIGNMENT

I answered the letter and asked for the assignment. I got it and I went back.

I went back for a number of reasons.

The first reason I went back is because I felt I HAD to go back to Mississippi if I were going to continue in my work as a newspaperman.

WAS ACTUALLY FRIGHTENED

You see, the white people of Mississippi actually frightened me during the Sumner murder trial. I have never denied it—I was scared all the time I was there and I was very very happy when it was all over and I could get out if there.

Now the mere fact that I was frightened during the murder trial didn't worry me too much. I've been scared before on assignments such as Korea and the second atomic bomb explosion.

But the thing that really did worry me was the fact that I was still frightened and scared when I LEFT Mississippi. There's a big difference. In Korea I was scared when there was a breakthrough by the enemy or when a mortar fell too close to me—but always when that particular phase of the attack was over I felt the same again.

But in Mississippi the difference was that I became frightened while there and remained frightened up to the very moment that I left there.

It was only when I got back and realized this that I also realised that I had to go back to Mississippi.

To me it was just like being frightened on an airplane when something goes wrong and finally getting back on the ground alive. I have a feelin gthat if you don't get back on a plane at your earliest opportunity—you may never get on another one because of your fear.

I recall once being on a Pan American Stratocruiser which caught fire ten minutes after we left Honolulu enroute to Korea. Flames engulfed the plane while we were in the air and it seemed a miracle that the pilot was able to get us back to Honolulu without all of us getting killed.

But we did get back safely and they repaired the plane in two days. On the third day when they announced to the 60 passengers that the plane was ready to take off again, only 20 of the 60 agreed to get back on it. Some caught boats and others said they would wait for at least another plane.

I was scared—but I was one of the 20 who got back in the same plane. A white correspondest who was traveling with me at the time decided he would catch a boat. He did. I see him every day here in New York now. But he has never been on another plane. He openly says now that he's just too scared to do so after the Honolulu incident.

I believe that if he had got back on that plane with the other 20 of us he would still be flying today. And he needs to fly in his job.

I thought of him when I decided to go back to Mississippi. The way I look at it Mississippi and the Till case is just ONE of a series of such racial incidents and outbreaks which are certain to pop up all over the South in the immediate future as integration is stepped up.

And every such incident should, and must be covered by the colored press. You can't get around it. Somebody has got to be there to tell the world whats going on. Who is better qualified to do this than a colored reporter.

And I'm a colored reporter.

I felt I had to go back to Mississippi if I intended to keep on being a colored reporter.

ANOTHER REASON

The second reason I went back was also personal. I just didn't want to admit to myself that I was actually afraid to go to any part of this country for which I gave blood, sweat and tears during the last war.

I'm an American and Mississippi is still a part of America though many white people down there refuse to act like it. I just didn't want to admit to myself that the flag that I followed and fought for, the flag that I love and respect, would not be with me in any part of America.

So I asked to go back.

My return trip was not a rewarding one. If I had doubts on the first trip about Mississippi being in complete defiance of the US flag, all the doubt was erased by my second trip. I know now that the state of Mississippi is already in complete rebellion against all the ideals of Americanism which I have been taught to love and respect.

But I have one satisfaction as the result of my second visit. I'm not afraid of Mississippi anymore.

It was just like getting back on that plane the second time. Today I'm not afraid to fly in anything that soars through the air and it and when they get rockets to the moon I'm going to ask to be in the first group of reporters who fly up there.

And the same thing goes for Mississippi.

I've now seen the white people down there for what they really are—a group of cowardly baby murderers who operate in the still of night only at times when the odds are weighted in their favor.

And I'm not afraid of them anymore. I'll go back to Mississippi to cover a baby murder, a race riot or the annual convention of the White Citizens Council.

I went back, I'm glad I went back, and I'll go back again and again as long as its a part of America.

And if Mississippi tries to secede—I'll be among the first to volunteer to pick up a gun and go back down there and help whip them back into the Union.

I'm not afraid anymore!

Hicks lays careful plans for rapid travel in Mississippi

Afro American
Dat. 9-24-55

By JAMES L. HICKS

SUMNER, Miss. — Before leaving NYC last week to come here and cover the Emmett L. Till lynching case, I made carefully my plans for reaching Mississippi, getting around while in the state and getting out when the time comes.

The first thing that I did was check the airlines. American Airlines told me that they could get me to Memphis but that I'd have to take Delta Airlines from there to Greenwood, Miss.

Now I had no intentions of getting caught anywhere in Mississippi without being able to move quickly under my own power, so when I made my reservation with American to Memphis, I told them to notify Delta that when I arrived in Greenwood I wanted a "You Drive It" car waiting for me.

Baltimore Md

THIS IS WHERE my air travel credit card came into play. This is the most valuable possession I own outside of my own home. It's worth more than money and I can't give the AFRO too much credit for putting it into my hands.

With the air travel card (which entitles one to fly anywhere in North America without putting up any cash) you also get a credit card entitling you to rent a brand new car wherever Hertz or Avis car rentals are located and you do not have to deposit a dime.

American said they would relay the information to Delta at Memphis and advised me to check with Delta on arrival in Memphis.

But when I got to Memphis, Delta informed me that neither Hertz or Avis had agencies at Greenwood but that Hertz had an agency at Greenville.

* * *

I CHECKED MY MAP. Both were about the same distance from Sumner give or take a few miles.

But if I went into Greenville I could get off the plane and get behind the wheel of a car of my own. If I went to Greenwood it meant jim-crow transportation to Sumner or depending on friends to get me there.

I switched my ticket from Greenwood to Greenville. This is how I went. I left La Guardia via American Airlines at 11:35 a.m. EDST.

After lunch aboard the plane and stops at Philadelphia and Washington, we sat down in Memphis about 2:45 Memphis time. At 4:40 Memphis time I was on a Delta plane headed for Greenville.

* * *

FIFTY MINUTES later I landed at the tiny little airport and as I walked into the station with other passengers I heard Delta paging "Mr. James L. Hicks."

I walked to the counter. There stood a Hertz man. He asked only one question: "Are you Mr. Hicks?"

When I answered him with my driver's license, he turned over the keys of a new Plymouth to me, I signed for it and in five minutes I had my bags in the car, a map of Mississippi on the seat beside me and was heading into Leland, Miss., on US Route 82.

It was nearing night and I had no intentions of going into Sumner at that hour, so the question again arose: "Where are you going to spend the night?"

* * *

BEFORE LEAVING New York I had talked with Roy Wilkins of the NAACP, Carl Murphy, my publisher, and many others.

Roy had told me of a little colored college located at a town called Itta Bena. I looked at my map and saw that it was just outside of Greenwood and about 54 miles from Leland, where I was then located.

I decided to drive over there and ask the president if he would let me sleep on the campus for the night.

But, at the same time, I recalled Mr. Murphy's suggestion that I talk with Dr. T. M. Howard of Mound Bayou, the all colored town, as soon as possible, so I checked my map for Mound Bayou.

* * *

THE MAP SHOWED Mound Bayou was about 45 miles to the north while Itta Beena was about 44 miles to the east.

Frankly, I didn't want too



JAMES L. HICKS

much of Dr. Howard. I had been told that his militancy among the whites here had made him as hot as Davy Crockett's shooting iron and that he was walking around with bodyguards.

But, on the other hand, I realized that I, as a damnYankee newspaperman, was a bit warm myself, especially to colored people living in Mississippi, and when I thought of how dependent college presidents are on the whites around them I decided that I'd take my chances with a militant independent man.

* * *

SO, I GUNNED THE CAR, turned left on Highway 61 and headed for Mound Bayou.

Now the speed limit in Mississippi is 60 miles per hour and I started out strictly adhering to it.

I was determined that if I got abused in Mississippi it would be the greatest miscarriage of justice ever perpetrated on a man because I would not knowingly do any wrong.

But after I hit the open road I began to wonder just how much of a friend I had in that Plymouth in case anything should happen. (I was thinking of Ted Poston's prize winning story of his 90-mile-an-hour chase out of Florida during the Groveland case.)

So I carefully picked a straight stretch of highway when nothing was in sight coming or going. Then I quietly asked that Plymouth just how much of a friend she really could be to me if push came to rush.

The Plymouth responded with a cool, level 80 miles an hour on the straight stretch and when I called her down I still had daylight between the accelerator and the floorboard.

* * *

I DROPPED BACK then to the legal speed limit. I was determined that if I got my neck broken in Mississippi it would not be at a speed above 80. I decided that if I had to go faster than 80 I might as well get out in a cornfield and fight it out with whoever was chasing me. As I see it the risk would be about the same.

I turned on the radio in "my car," picked up Lowell Thomas and the news and sat there driving and reminiscing about the time I had visited Thomas in his upstate New York home when they dedicated a stone from Haiti in his fireplace and presto — all of a sudden there was a sign saying 'Mound Bayou."

I had a funny feeling as I drove into Mound Bayou. No, —well say I didn't feel funny at all. I simply was glad to see this all-colored town.

* * *

ALL THESE YEARS I have written with scorn about anything "all colored" and while I still am not ready to admit that I favor any all-colored anything, I've still got to be honest and admit that for the moment I was glad to see Mound Bayou.

All along the highway coming up from Leland I had looked at the ramshackle unpainted houses and cabins of colored people in the cotton fields that lined the way.

I had visions of being forced to sleep in one of them or in the car on the side of the road and I didn't like the vision.

I had seen quite a few nice looking places along the way, but one glance told me they were white and forbidden.

It was dark when I pulled into Mound Bayou, and the night had settled over the lowlands that lined the highway like the gloom of doom.

* * *

BUT ALL OF A SUDDEN there was Mound Bayou with its neon lights and, what's more, I knew that everything in the place was colored and that I could knock on any door without too much fear of being kicked in the face.

How do you case a town? Everyone has a different method, I suppose. With me, if I'm driving (and I always want to be driving), I like first to ride through the town without saying anything to anybody.

This I did. I went on through Mound Bayou. You can do that in three minutes. Then, when I got north of the town, I swung west off the highway, then south and came right back down a street which parallels the highway running through its center.

* * *

THIS GAVE ME AN IDEA of its layout. I could readily see that it was located on both sides of the highway, that a railroad split it right down the middle and that by Eastern standards it was just a wide spot in the road.

Such a little ride through town often is very helpful to a stranger. For invariably, when you begin to ask questions people will direct you not to the best places always but to the places owned by people they know and like.

Thus, if you ask for a hotel they may send you to a "pad" joint when a decent hotel is just around the corner.

On my swing through the town I had "cased" the location of two hotels, the post office, the Western Union office and several cafes.

* * *

I WAS NOW READY with tall to somebody.

Whom do you talk with first? My first choice is cab drivers. My second choice is barbers.

I didn't see any cabs but I did see a barber shop and it was open. I walked in and asked for a "quick shave" (I rarely get shaved in a barber shop except on cases like this).

Barbers (bless them) are to men what beauticians are to women. Their customers tell them all the town business and they willingly pass it on to customers they like or customers who tip well.

I got my shave, gave the barber a generous tip and then I began to ask questions. Soon I was on my way with about all the information I needed.

* * *

I WENT DIRECTLY to the best restaurant, called the waitress on duty by name and had a good roast beef dinner for 98 cents.

I used the waitress to check on the barber. He had recommended one hotel as the best. While eating I asked her which of the two hotels was the best.

She recommended the same as the barber and told me where to locate a Mrs. Anderson, the owner of the hotel, where this is being written.

* * *

I WENT TO Mrs. Anderson's store, introduced myself. She closed the store, got in her car, I followed and she led me down to her hotel. It turned out to be a spanking new and modern hotel located on the main highway.

When I walked in I nearly flipped to note that I had a big double bed, complete toilet facilities, a shower and an air-conditioning unit in my room, all for $5 a night.

I felt like a lost man on a desert who has just discovered an oasis

I set my bags down, took a shower and headed up town, having been told that Dr. Howard was "making his rounds and could be anywhere."

I visited his clinic, went to the high school, failed to find him, left a note for him at the clinic asking for an audience the following morning, then dropped in at my landlady's variety store.

* * *

THERE I LEARNED that Mr. Anderson is the town policeman, that Mound Bayou has no jail (they send the people he arrests to nearby Cleveland) and that the Little Harlem is the hottest spot in Mound Bayou.

I then went around to the Western Union office, found it "closed," but learned that a young woman, Miss Amy Millsap, the Western Union operator, also operates the town's telephone switchboard and, therefore, can't close that part of the office.

So she called New York for me. I got my wife on the telephone and reported to her that through the magic of an air travel card I was in Mississippi on my first day without having once being forced to take a bow to James Crow.

When I hung up I bought the papers and came to my hotel to sit down and tell you all about the first day. And this is it.

Lynching
The American Trial Diary
Sept. 9-24-55

By JAMES L. HICKS

(Editor's Note: James L. Hicks, AFRO New York correspondent and NNPA staff writer, is in Sumner, Miss., covering the Emmett Till lynch trial. In addition to his regular coverage, Mr. Hicks is writing a day-by-day account of his experiences in Mississippi. The first of his daily reports follows:)

MOUND BAYOU, Miss. — I knew I was going to get this assignment long before my editors gave it to me — but I was determined that I would not ask for it.



Jimmy Hicks

After getting out of Korea alive I made up my mind that I would never again volunteer to go into a combat zone.

But last week in Memphis, while covering the Baptist Convention, I knew that I would get the assignment and although my editors didn't say a word at the time, I started then preparing for it.

In the middle of the convention, when the Memphis papers announced the date of the trial (Sept. 19), I told everyone who would listen that I wanted to get out of Memphis before my editors realized that I was so near the trial site and order me down there before I got back to New York.

* * *

AS A RESULT, I left the Baptist convention as soon as they sang the last hymn.

But even though I got away before being assigned to Mississippi, I was so sure that I would get sent here that I talked with every Mississippi preacher I could find before leaving Memphis and even made arrangements with one to stay at his home in Water Valley.

Back in New York I covered the funeral of George Woods of the Red Rooster and pretty soon the telephone rang.

It was Managing Editor Arthur (Art) Carter. Before he could finish saying "We've got to send a man to Mississippi," I interrupted him and asked, "When do you want me to leave?"

ART SAID THEY wanted me in Mississippi by Friday morning. I told him I'd be there and then got out my Rand McNally Atlas to take a good, long look at the sovereign state of Mississippi.

How does one go about preparing to go into a racially combat area to get a story? This is how I did it.

First, I went to the Red Rooster and got myself a double shot of something strong. Then I got out my map. From my map I could see that the nearest large towns to the site of the trial at Summer were Greenville to the southwest and Greenwood on the east.

A check with my map showed that neither had more than 20,000 people and both are about the same size. But the map also showed that Sumner, the trial site, has less than 1,000 population.

THAT AUTOMATICALLY told me that I would not live in Sumner. For any traveling man will tell you that when racial hostilities set in in a small town it's the worst place in the world to live.

If you don't believe me, check it for yourself. Take the most recent flareups. Look where Bryant Bowles first flared up. Not in the big city of Wilmington, Del., but in the small hamlet of Milford.

Look at West Virginia. Where was the school trouble? Not at Charleston but at White Sulphur Springs.

I ruled out Sumner and decided it would be Greenwood or Greenville. I'd live in one of those towns and commute daily into Sumner.

WHILE SITTING at the Rooster, a gent at the next table was talking and I couldn't help but hear what he was saying.

The man was telling about his recent experiences with the police in Mississippi. He was in the company of some friends I knew and I moved over to the table and asked for an introduction.

The gentleman turned out to be Dr. Bobo Miller of Helena, Ark.

Dr. Miller, who had flown to New York for the funeral of his friend, George Wood, was relating that he had been traveling in Mississippi when a rumor was spread that colored people from all over the North were converging on Mississippi with loaded guns to shoot up the state.

State police in Tennessee and Mississippi picked up the rumor and began stopping and searching colored drivers wherever they found them.

* * *

DR. MILLER was stopped, searched and released.

I told him of my mission. He lives just across the Mississippi line in Arkansas and I asked him to tell me of someone in Mississippi I might live with near the trial scene.

He told me to go to Greenwood and look up Dr. George Lane and tell him that I knew him.

With the address of Dr. Lane in Greenwood, I automatically ruled out Greenville. I was heading for Greenwood.

Terror Reigns In Mississippi

Informer
Sat. 10-15-55
P.1

Mound Bayou Physician Delivers Stirring Speech Before Audience Of 2,500

Lynching of 14-year old boy and two gangster murders cited as well planned statewide campaign to prevent registration of voters and integration of public schools--How the Ku Klus economic pressures exposed--FBI silent--Congressman Diggs--Did Emmett Till whistle at the grocery clerk--Inside story on those who stood near as youth was beaten to death--

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first of a series of installments of an address Dr T. R. M. Howard, Mound Bayou, Mississippi delivered in Baltimore, telling of the gruesome lynching of a 14-year old Emmett Till. The entire text of the address will be carried in series.

Houston Texas

By DR T. R. M. HOWARD

I want to thank the Rev Mr Nixon for that introduction. I'm just sorry that I didn't bring my wife, Reverend, so she could have heard that introduction.

Around home sometimes she seems to think I'm just a little boy. If she could have heard that introduction, I believe that she would have been convinced that maybe I had grown into manhood.

• • • •

WHEN I WAS called only a few day ago and asked if it would be possible for me to be here in Baltimore this afternoon, I hesitated after I was told the thing that you wanted me to do here because I hardly felt that a country doctor could fill such an important part on your program.

But after I said that I would come, I was made to think of one of our greatest Baptist speakers down at the Shadrack Mechack Baptist Church at Puckiner, Miss, where the Rev Solomon D. Jones has served as pastor for the last 37½ years.

A financial drive was staged a few weeks ago to replace a room on the church, which had been blown away by a recent Mississippi storm.

• • • •

THE REV MR Jones thought that he would invite the members of the First Baptist Church, white, in this little town to assist in th financial drive.

He invited the pastor of that church to deliver the sermon, and he had hoped that a number of the white members would come over for this occasion.

The pastor did come and bring a number of his members with him and when he rose to speak, he took as his subject, "Servants, Obey Your Masters."

He proceeded to give them a sermon on white superiority and how they should remain humble nd shouldn't pay any attention e-cent decisions of the Su e Court of the United States.

THE PREACHER ended his sermon by saying, "Dear colored brothers and sisters, you know, one of these days, we're all going up to heaven. You good colored people are not going to have streets of gold to walk on like the white people. The Lord's going to provide good cabins for you on the back streets of Heaven." Then he took his seat.

As he sat down, the Rev Mr Jones caught the eye of Deacon Anthony D. Smith and asked him to lead in a word of prayer.

Well, sir, Deacon Smith had gotten so mad during the white preacher's sermon that he didn't even want to address God properly.

After thanking God for everything, he said, now, Lord, it 'pears to me that some of our white preachers here in Mississippi aint' been study'n your word right, talking' 'bout us black folks ain't gonna walk no streets o' gold.

Oh, Lord, God, please teach this white preacher and all these white brethern that when we colored folks get up in Heaven we'll walk where we damned please! (Applause)

Informer

LADIES AND gentlemen, the reason that there is so much disturbance in Mississippi today is that the colored people in Mississippi have decided since the deacon's prayer that we don't want to wait until we get to Heaven to walk where we please. We want to do it right here in this present world. (Applause)

P.8

As I told a group in Mississippi last night, I'm from what is considered the "Iron Curtain state of Mississippi," where the governor is considering calling another special session of the Legislature to try and impeach the Supreme Court of the United States and to try and have the word "Desegregate" and "integration" removed from the English language.

• • • •

IN FACT, Mississippi would have liked to secede from the Union on the afternoon of May 17, 1954, if there had been any place for her to go.

But there was only one place for Mississippi to go on that afternoon, and since Theodore Bilbo went there a few years ago, he sent word back that t here were a lot of Mississippians down there. (Applause)

The word is out in Mississippi that Bilbo, through the spirit world, sent a message to Gov Hugh White several months ago and told him that he wished that he would change the way that they were treating colored people in Mississippi.

He said he wanted him to treat them better; to give them the right to vote and to give them a human being's chance before the courts.

• • • •

THIS MESSAGE disturbed Governor White very much and he sought to send a message back, inquiring why Bilbo had had such a change of heart so far as the colored Mississippians were concerned.

Bilbo sent this message back: Bilbo said, you know, they have a colored fireman down here on 24-hour duty and he's keeping it hot all the time! (Applause)

As a minority group in this nation, we are, indeed fortunate that we live in a nation whose watchwords are liberty, freedom and democracy.

It is of historical interest this afternoon, in view of all the things that are happening in my Mississippi to note that when the Pilgrim fathers set foot upon the shores of America in 1620, they laid the foundation of our national government upon the bedrock of liberty, freedom and democracy.

• • • •

IT IS WITH interest this afternoon that we note that in all of our wars, we have gone into them from Mississippi, South Carolina and Georgia.

We have decided, in Mississippi, that we are tired of dying for something of Heartbreak Ridge in Korea that we can't vote for in Belzoni, Miss. (Applause)

The decision of the Supreme Court of the United States of America outlawing segregation in the public schools on May 17, 1954, caught the entire South, especially Mississippi, unprepared for this decision.

The State of Mississippi sought to find some way around the decision of the Supreme Court.

• • • •

THE GOVERNOR and the State Legislature felt that if they took the colored people of the state into their confidence—

(I might explain just here that as most of you know, the population in Mississippi is about equally divided between whites and colored citizens.)

At the present time, we have a few more whites in the state than we have colored people, because of the large number of colored people who have left the state during the last 30 years.

At the present time, we have approximately 1,230,000 whites and we have approximately one million colored people) So the governor felt that the easiest way out would be to work out some plan he called "voluntary segregation."

• • • •

THAT IS IF we can just get the colored people of the state to go along with us on a voluntary basis, then we can say to the President of the United States we can say to the Congress of the United States, we can say to the Supreme Court of the United States and we can say to the world, that the colored people in Mississippi don't want this thing which you are calling for.

It's an interesting thing, my friends. I don't care whether it's in Maryland or whether it's in Mississippi, when certain white parties get something that they want to put over on colored people, they can always find an "Uncle Tom," who will serve their purpose. (Applause)

So the Governor of Mississippi had seven of his handpicked boys called in and he revealed to them that we are now ready to accept the theory of separate but equal.

You know, all of us fooled ourselves for a number of years in believing that there was such a thing as a separate but equal theory in education.

• • • •

WE ALL KNOW today that there is no such thing as separate, but equal facilities where a matter is as vital as the education of our children is involved.

The governor, in addressing these seven colored leaders, forgot that since the Mississippi constitutional convention of 1890 Mississippi had separate but equal provisions for education for colored children of the state.

He had forgotten all about that provision in the laws of the State of Mississippi until he felt the sharp leg of the Supreme Court of the United States of America. (Prolonged aplpause).

After the governor — (Prolonged applause as Gloria Lockerman entered the auditorium) I know that we all feel very proud as we see our little spelling champion, little Gloria Lockerman — (Applause again).

After the governor had talked to this group of seven men about this plan, they were anxious to please the governor.

• • • •

THEY TOLD him that they were sure that 95 per cent of the colored people of Mississippi would go along with the plan of voluntary segregation.

The governor was so happy about this that he called in the press and revealed to them that 95 per cent of the colored people would go along "with a plan for voluntary segregation in public schools."

When the people of Mississippi read what these leaders had promised the governor, they became so indignant that they wanted to use some of Mississippi's methods of violence on the leaders who had sold them down the river.

There was so much protest that the governor decided that maybe he had better call 100 of the people's chosen leaders to find out what they thought about his plan of voluntary segregation.

This meeting was called in the executive mansion in Jackson on July 30 last year.

I'm happy today to tell you that 99 persons out of that 100 stood and shouted in one voice that we want no part of segregation and discrimination in Mississippi or any other place. (Loud applause).

(To Be Continued).

27d 1955

MISSISSIPPI

LOUIS LAUTIER

8911

IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL:

Afro-American p.3

U.S. Government must move to guarantee rights in Miss.

Baltimore, Md.

not 11-8-55

BY LOUIS LAUTIER

The not guilty verdict in the case of Emmett Louis Till, 14-year old Chicago boy, reflects the attitude of whites not only in the community in which the trial was held but also in the whole State of Mississippi.

That attitude is that colored persons have no rights that white persons are bound to respect—not even the right to life.

The only difference in the Till case and that of other colored victims of violence at the hands of whites in Mississippi was the brutality of the murder, the age of the boy, the method used to dispose of the body, and the offense—"wolf whistling" at a white woman of which the Till boy was accused.

* * *

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT attorneys have long ago admitted that it is very difficult to get an indictment against a white person from a Federal grand jury in Mississippi for violating existing Federal civil rights laws where the victim is colored.

If an indictment is obtained, it is well nigh impossible to get a conviction, they have noted.

With colored people getting virtually no protection in Mississippi from either the State or Federal Government, it appears that there are only one of two things that the colored people of that state may do-either meet violence with violence or move north.

In the meantime, the Federal Government should move with all the force at its command to see that the constitutional guarantees of equal protection of the laws and due process of law are safeguarded in Mississippi.

* * *

SINCE PRESIDENT EISENHOWER is ill, Atty. Gen. Herbert Brownell Jr. might call upon all citizens and law enforcement officers to do everything within their power to discourage and prevent a recurrence of violence such as has occurred against colored persons in Mississippi in the last few months.

In addition to the Till boy, there have been two other murders of colored persons to highlight the fact that a colored person in Mississippi has no rights that a white man is bound to respect.

The Rev. George W. Lee, a Baptist minister, was murdered in Belzoni, Miss., on May 7, because he refused to remove his name from the voters' registration list. The FBI investigated this murder, but no arrest has yet been made.

* * *

THE SECOND murder occurred just before the August run-off primary election when a bird dog trainer, Lamar Smith, was shot and killed in the Lincoln County courthouse yard.

He had been active in soliciting absentee colored voters for a white candidate in a bitter campaign for a local post. Two white farmers were arrested, but not indicted.

Mr. Brownell also should move immediately to have Federal grand juries impaneled in Mississippi for a sweeping investigations of White Citizens Councils and of intimidation to keep colored persons from registering and voting.

The juries should also investigate the failure of the election board to count ballots cast in the primary in the all-colored town of Mound Bayou.

Under existing Federal law, it is a Federal offense for two or more persons to "conspire to injure, oppress, threaten, or intimidate any citizen in the free exercise or enjoyment of any right or privilege secured to him by the Constitution or laws of the United States.

Among the rights which have been held to warrant protection against the acts of individuals as well as officials is the right to vote and to have that vote counted as cast.

* * *

THERE ALSO is a responsibility resting upon the Democratic National Committee in the disenfranchisement of colored voters by the Democratic Party in Mississippi.

Tom J. Tubb, chairman of the Mississippi Democratic executive committee not only directed county committees to challenge colored voters in the Democratic primaries in August, but he has since called a meeting to devise ways and means of reducing the number of colored persons on the voting lists.

The Democratic Party cannot in good conscience appeal for votes of colored people in northern states and at the same time countenance a lily-white Democratic Party in Mississippi.

There are other steps which the Federal Government can and should take to insure a republican form of government in Mississippi.

27d 1955

MISSISSIPPI L. ALEX WILSON 8912

Scoops Nation On Till Murder Case

Defender

Sat-10-15-13

Chicago Def.

The Chicago Defender was receiving praise from throughout the nation this week for the enterprise it displayed in tracking down and questioning one of the two mystery "witnesses" in the now celebrated Till case.

From the beginning, the Defender has offered the most complete coverage of the case of any daily or weekly publication in the nation.

The climax of its coverage so far has been the tracking down and bringing to Chicago for questioning of Levy "Too Tight" Collins by L. Alex Wilson.

WILSON IN CHARGE

Wilson, of Memphis, was in charge of the Defender Publications on-the-spot coverage of the recent trial of Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam for the killing of young Emmett Till of Chicago.

Collins, and his buddy, Henry Loggins, both of whom worked for J. W. Milam, one of the two white defendants, were eagerly sought during the recent trial.

Neither could be located and it was rumored they had been jailed under false names to prevent them from giving testimony damaging to the defense.

The bold plan to dig up these witnesses was conceived by Defender publisher John H. Sengstacke who assigned the task to Wilson, manager of the Defender's Memphis publication the Tri-State Defender.

In Chicago, Collins denied participation in or knowledge of the lynching of young Emmett Till. However, Collin's denial does not completely clear him of implication in of knowledge of the crime. There remains a haunting suspicion that Collins knows more than the Defender was able to elicit from him.

Failure to completely test Collins' connection with the crime was attributed by Sengstacke to several factors:

1—Because of Willie Reed's unexpected nervous breakdown it was impossible to bring the two men together.

2—The failure to question Loggins except by phone and check Collins' story against what Loggins might have said.

3—Lack of time which prevented subjecting Collins to a lie detector test.

4—The inability of the Defender to "loosen" "Too Tight" since his family was still in Mississippi and subject to reprisals had he been completely frank under questioning.

Defender

5—And finally, the impossibility of double checking the alibis and other statements made by Collins.

Sengstacke declared this week that the paper's investigation of the crime did not end when Collins was returned to his home in Mississippi last week according to a promise.

"I'll not rest," he said "until I'm satisfied in my own mind that every avenue of investigation has been thoroughly explored either by us, the federal government or other agency.

P. 2

NOT THROUGH

"Too many similar cases have been left hanging in mid-air with no explanation of a number of important questions. I want to see this one case, if no other, completely investigated and the perpetrators of the crime brought to justice."

"Because of the international implications in this case" the publisher added, "the federal government should have a big stake in finding and prosecuting the killers of this boy."

The job done was Wilson was highly commended by Sengstacke, and others in the newspaper field.

Wilson, a native of Florida, was an overseas correspondent for Defender Publications during the Korean conflict and received an award for outstanding reporting.

WORKED IN CHICAGO

Before being assigned to Memphis, Wilson worked in Chicago on the staff of the Chicago Defender.

Samples of the communications received by the Defender relating to the case follow:

Elisha Branch of Chicago wrote: "The Chicago Defender has and is doing a wonderful job in the Till tragedy. It is a wonderful thing to have a newspaper employ extra help, use extra money, time and space to give citizens an opportunity to express their opinions."

Another Chicagoan, Mrs. Lolita J. Drinkard, wrote:

"Congratulations to your newspaper and to those two fine energetic reporters who went to Mississippi and sought out new witnesses thereby revealing important new evidence pertinent to the lynching of Emmett Till.

PROUD OF DEFENDER

"I'm proud that we have a newspaper like the Defender with alert, fact-finding reporters."

Andrew G. Paschall of Chicago stated:

"Both the Chicago Defender and the NAACP staffs are to be commended for their undertakings and accomplishments in producting the key witnesses in the Till lynching trial. It was an act of wisdom to guarantee these people safety and security out of Mississippi.

"Now why should the Defender and NAACP not go a step further and establish a fund to assist all those who would leave the several counties in that area of Mississippi?"

From Stamford, Conn., Miss Mary L. Robinson wrote:

"I think your newspaper did and is doing a marvelous job in the Till case. Something should be done about this murder. Doing nothing will only make the white man feel big and smart.

"Our people and your newspaper should get together and use our heads and not let anyone think we are afraidt o fight back."



L. ALEX WILSON

8913

Kidnap-Lynching Of Emmett Till Is Help To NAACP

Globe
Fri. 9-30-55
P. 1

New York, Sept. 22—The kidnap-lynching of 14-year-old Emmett Louis Till in Mississippi last month has brought a deluge of telephone calls and letters into NAACP headquarters from persons of both races who have been prompted to act by the horror of the anti-Negro crime, an NAACP spokesman said here today.

Most of the persons have contributed funds to the Association and many have become NAACP members for the first time. Others have renewed expired memberships.

The Association is not involved in court action in connection with the case inasmuch as the responsibility for securing justice in this trial rests with the State of Mississippi. However, funds received will be used to step up the NAACP campaign to end the "reign of terror" in that State and to bring full citizenship rights to Negro citizens there and elsewhere in the country.

Globe

Typical of communications received at NAACP headquarters was one which declared:

"When I picked up my newspaper yesterday and read of little Emmett Louis Till's lynching in Mississippi, I suddenly realized that the only way to help stop such goings-on is to keep my membership up to date and do my p art, such as encouraging others to join or send contributions. I have already convinced quite a few of my neighbors of how important it is for them to join and help in any way possible."

Pd

Another letter says:

"My contribution . . . enclosed isn't much but it's not the last. I'm sending more to you. Please fight for justice to see that the killers of young Emmett Louis Till be brought to justice . . . I'm calling on all my friends to send at least a dollar to your organization . . ."

A southerner has written:

"I hope to get my membership card as soon as possible. I am tired of what's going on down here in the South . . . I want to see a change in things . . . I read in the paper what happened in Mississippi and we got to get together and put an end to it . . ."

Another contributor writes: "I hope that funds will come in enough to end this thing once and for all."

A resident of Seattle, Wash., asserted in a letter:

"The recent incident in Houston (segregation of the Indian ambassador to the U. S.) on top of that terrible thing in Mississippi makes me feel ashamed. Will you please pass on the check enclosed to the N. A. A. C. P. with the hope that it may help in an extremely small way in the very important work that they are doing to pevent such outrages in the future."

HEARING SET FRIDAY FOR BRYANT, MILAM

Commercial Appeal
Memphis

Bond May Be Fixed In Till Kidnaping Case

Special to The Commercial Appeal

GREENWOOD, Miss., Sept. 27.—A preliminary hearing for two white men charged with kidnaping Emmett L. Till, 14-year-old Chicago Negro, has been set for Friday, Leflore County Judge Charles Pollard said Tuesday.

Wkly 9-28-55

Judge Pollard said no definite time has been set for the hearing but he said it would probably be held about 10 a.m. in his office at the courthouse.

Wkly 9-25-55

Bond is expected to be set at that time for Roy Bryant, 24-year-old Money, Miss., storekeeper, and his half-brother, J. W. Milam, 36, of Glendora, Miss.

Bryant and Milam were acquitted by a Tallahatchie County jury last week of murder charges in connection with the case.

Dist. Atty. Stanny Sanders of Indianola said Tuesday no witnesses are expected to be summoned for the preliminary hearing. The Leflore County Grand Jury is slated to consider possible kidnap indictments against the men at its next session No. 7.

Till's Mother Cancels Talk

Advance
Mon. 10-3-55
Pd

CHICAGO, Oct. 2 (AP) — A New York speaking engagement for the mother of a Negro boy slain in Mississippi has been called off because of the woman's illness.

Mrs. Mamie Bradley, 33, a witness at the trial of two white men acquitted of murdering her son, Emmett Till, 14, is in Provident Hospital. The hospital reported her condition "fair," but declined to give further details. Associates said she is suffering from a severe cold and "nervous exhaustion."

Monitor
Wkly 9-28-55

Mrs. Bradley was admitted to the hospital last night, a few hours after addressing a National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People rally in Detroit.

Rayfield Mooty, Mrs. Bradley's nephew, said she had planned to fly to New York today to speak at another NAACP rally. Mrs. Cora Patton, local NAACP president, said no new date has been fixed for her New York appearance.

Till Boy's Mother Opens NAACP Drive In Cleveland, Ohio

Globe
Fri. 9-30-55
Pd

New York, Sept. 22 — NAACP Membership Campaign in Cleveland, Baltimore and Chicago this Fall will seek 10,000 members each, Miss Lucille Black, NAACP Membership Secretary, announced here today.

Nashville Tenn.

Miss Black said the Cleveland Campaign opened on Sept. 18 with a mass meeting at which more than 2,000 persons were turned away because of an overflow crowd. Speakers at this meeting were Roy Wilkins, NAACP Executive Secretary, and Mrs. Mamie Bradley, mother of Emmett Louis Till, Mississippi lynch victim. Several thousand persons jammed into Antioch Baptist church for the occasion.

Assisting the Cleveland branch in the campaign are Miss Mildred Bond, NAACP Field Secretary, and Mrs. Muriel Gregg, the Association's Youth Field Secretary.

Two Field Secretaries of the N. A. A. C. P. will assist the Baltimore and Chicago branches in their Fall Membership Drive. They are John Flamer for Baltimore and Miss Gertrude Gorman for Chicago.

Lynch Victim's Mother Opens NAACP Campaign

Daily World
Atlanta Ga.

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Wkly 9-28-55

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NAACP Deplores Till Case Verdict

Times Picayune

NEW YORK, Sept. 24 (AP)—The National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People has described the acquittal verdict in the Emmett Till case at Sumner, Miss., as "shameful" and "shocking."

Sun 9-25-55
Pg 18

The all-white jury acquitted Roy Bryant and his half-brother, John W. Milam, in the "wolf-whistle" slaying of Till, a South side Chicago Negro boy.

New Orleans

A statement, signed by Dr. Channing H. Tobias, chairman of the NAACP's Board of Directors, said:

"The verdict is as shameful as it is shocking. The jurors who returned it deserve a medal from the Kremlin for meritorious service in communism's war against democracy. They have done their best to discredit our judicial system, to hold us up as a nation of hypocrites and to undermine faith in American democracy.

"Their intolerance is all the more glaring in light of Judge Swango's fair and impartial conduct of the trial, the prosecutor's skill and vigor in presenting the case, and the full and fair coverage of the trial by press, radio and television."

8914

On The Emmett Louis Till Incident

The incident at Money, Mississippi last week has implications and significance that goes far deeper than the fact that the 14-year-old Negro boy, Emmett Louis Till, was kidnapped by white men from the home of his uncle and killed because of a "wolf-whistle" at the wife of a white storekeeper.

The incident touches at the very heart of the question whether Negroes can continue to make progress in the state in a parallel march beside its white people while avoiding those points of contact out of which friction is inevitable, or whether the whole future progress of the Negroes of the state, wholly dependent upon the continued goodwill of the white people, must be sacrificed in demands for, and a continued drive toward the friction producing contacts, out of which incidents such as that of Emmett Louis Till will continually grow, finally bringing Negroes face to face with the impossible situation of moving forward progressively without the friendship and goodwill of the white people of the state.

The shock of the incident, in spite of the known policy of the organization in statements regarding such matters, may have been to some extent, responsible for the bitter statement in regard to the people of Mississippi, made following the incident by Roy Wilkins, Executive Secretary of the NAACP. But not withstanding the Wilkins statement, the Negro who lives in Mississippi knows that there are thousands of fine white people in the state who whole-heartedly condemn the slaying of the Till boy, who still are friendly towards the Negroes desire and right to equality under the law, while at the same time totally rejecting the NAACP drive for integration of the races in the state.

Up in Chicago Dr. T. R. M. Howard, the Mound Bayou physician whose reportedly bought and paid for articles in some of the leading magazines and newspapers of the nation have given him a national prominence and reputation far from what he deserves according to those who know him best in Mound Bayou, made the statement in reference to the incident according to Jet Magazine, that "If this slaughtering of Negroes is allowed to continue, Mississippi will have a civil war. Negroes are going to take only so much."

Any person who has even the slightest knowledge of the conditions of Negro life in Mississippi, and in the United States, will readily dismiss the statement of Dr. Howard as being made either by a fool, or by someone with a reckless ambition for public attention.

More than ever before the Till incident puts the responsibility upon white and Negro leaders alike who know and understand the value of inter-racial goodwill, to work for the preservation and continuance of inter-racial goodwill in the state.

How Much Can Mississippi Stand?

The indictment of the alleged kidnap-lynchers of Emmett Till near Money, Mississippi is one step in the direction of finding out the real culprits and starting them on toward the gas chamber, which affords mild punishment for the brutal murder and throwing into a river of the Chicago teen-ager who was accused of "wolf-whistling" in the presence of a white woman. And whether the victim was guilty of any crime is a question.

This killing in all its native ugliness, typifying the most horrid spectacle imaginable, has gone the rounds of news coverage. Editorial opinions, almost identical in nature have called down the fires of justice upon the heads of the culprits.

The nation has undergone, unwarrantedly, the worst sort of advertisement possible in its zero hour of stress, tension and cold wars.

Patriotic Americans will view this unfortunate incident, coming so closely upon the heels of the Big Four meeting, with great alarm. They feel that our prestige has not been enhanced by the ugly picture, an expression directly contrary to the system of government to which we insist and subscribe.

The murder of Rev. Lee, a minister who was ruthlessly slain in Mississippi a short time ago, is still among the crimes demanding settlement. A race-baiting campaign in which the successful candidate in the runover in the gubernatorial race, openly defied the Department of Justice in his rabid appeals to passion and prejudice, is also of record in Mississippi.

Mississippi has an opportunity of emerging in good standing, in the forthright handling of the trial of those accused of murdering the Till lad; she can make a contribution to the good offices of this country. With the above enumerated three strikes on her it is being wondered just how much Mississippi can really stand.

From All Walks of Life

Protests Mount Over Emmett Till's Death

Letter-writing has taken on a profound significance since the lynch-slaying of 14-year-old Emmett Till recently in Mississippi.



Attorney Huff

A white man wrote Chicago attorney, William Henry Huff: "The only mistake they made in Mississippi was not getting the others, too."

Attorney Huff's reply is: "Neither crackpot calls nor crackpot letters disturb me."

* * *

Other excerpts from persons and organizations across the country follow:

"Hanging these sadistic murderers will but poorly serve the ends of justice because the entire State of Mississippi, from the Governor down, is guilty of fostering the atmosphere of hatred and defiance of law."—Gerald Bullock, Illinois NAACP official.

* * *

To President Eisenhower: "You, as President and Attorney General Brownell should exercise all power and influence to end the inflammatory activities of the racists . . . like Gov. James Byrnes of South Carolina, Gov. Hugh White of Mississippi and Eugene Talmadge of Georgia, whose violent support of segregation and discrimination make them responsible also for the lynching of Emmett Till."—Local 758, Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, Chicago.

"This is a very regretable incident."—Robert Patterson, executive secretary, Mississippi White Citizens Councils.

"It must take a lot of nerve to murder an innocent child."—D. Jones, San Antonio, Tex.

* * *

"I suggest Mississippi be called the "Lynch State."—Calvin L. Owens, Durham, N. C.

* * *

"Let us hope for justice to be done."—Douglas Fairbanks Rowland III, Atlantic City, N. J.

* * *

"This atrocity transcends racial considerations."—National Urban League, Milwaukee.

* * *

To President Eisenhower: "The lynching of a child is one of the most barbaric crimes ever committed by racists and bigots . . . to perpetuate white supremacy."—Camille Carter, president, NAACP Youth Council, Chicago.

— BIGGEST and the BEST —

Albert BARNETT

Till's Murders Didn't Know That A Drowned Body Floats To The Surface

CHICAGO WITNESSED ITS SADDEST FUNERAL IN HISTORY Saturday, when grief-stricken relatives and saddened friends gathered at Roberts Temple of the Church of God in Christ, 41st and State streets, to weep at the bier of Emmett Louis Till, 14-year-od kidnap-murder victim of race hatred in Mississippi.

The entire nation was aroused on the preceding Wednesday when the torn, mutilated body of the stalwart youth, bound with barbed wire and weighted with iron, floated to the surface of the Tallahatchie River, near Money, Miss., and was discovered by a fisherman.

The murderers thought that when they weighted Till's body down with iron, it would stay PUT, but in their haste to finish their infamous crime, they didn't realize that a human body, immersed in water over a prolonged period, becomes bloated, and with inflated power, rises to the surface, bring-

ing with it all ORDINARY burdens and weights attached to it.

So, the hate-filled Mississippi murderers, after mutilating young Till's body and tossing it into the river, soon found themselves confronted with unmistakable evidences of their heinous crime. The body had FLOATED TO THE SURFACE.

At the Chicago funeral, the body was placed in a sealed, air-proof casket, exactly as it was when dragged from the Tallhatchie river. No plastic surgery had been employed by morticians to hide the ghastly wounds inflicted by the murderers who killed the boy for allegedly giving a 'wolf whistle' at a woman.

As thousands passed the bier at Roberts Temple church, stern men gritted their teeth and turned tear-filled faces away from the ghastly sight, while women screamed and fainted as they viewed the torn and twisted features of the harmless boy, still in his 'teens.

They saw that his eyes had been gouged out, his tongue slit and his head bashed in, after a murderous shot in back of the neck. The bloated body was more than twice its normal size and identification was made positive by the RING on the right, middle finger bearing the initials "L. T." and the date, "MAY 25th, 1943."

At the funeral, both ministers and laymen, counselled patience, tolerance and moderation in both thought and action, while they demanded that justice be served and that the DEATH PENALTY be given the Mississippi murderers whose fiendish crime shocked the nation.

One minister shouted: "The Lord and the Law will take care of this! Vengeance is not in the hands of the people." Another declared: "There are people in the South who don't condone this sort of thing any more than we do."

Mississippi spoke last Tuesday (we hope) when the grand jury, in Sumner, Miss., for the first time, indicted two white men — Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam — FOR MURDER, in the death of a Negro — Emmett Louis Till of Chicago. And, remember this: a MURDER CONVICTION in Mississippi, without recommendation of MERCY, brings a mandatory SENTENCE OF DEATH!

Our Opinions

Defender

Mississippi's Infamy

Chicago Ill.

MONEY, Miss. — Where 14-year-old Emmett Louis Till was brutally lynched will live infamy unto the third and fourth generations.

Sat. 9-17-55

Until the bloody-handed criminals who beat life from his young body are given swift and adequate punishment, the white inhabitants of this benighted town will stand condemned.

P.9

Until the lynching of Negroes in Mississippi is vigorously suppressed by the Federal government, the white people of the U. S., will stand dishonored in the eyes of the civilized world.

Defender

For decent people everywhere are shocked and outraged by this conscienceless and extravagant demonstration of sheer evil.

But what can we say to console the bereaved mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley, whose son was the innocent victim of one of the most horrible lynchings in history. His murder was indeed a double tragedy for her, for the boy's father had died abroad as a soldier in World War II.

Her son, ironically, was a victim of the very thing his father fought to exterminate—racial violence.

Mrs. Bradley, a cautious, God-fearing, law-abiding mother, had tried to raise her boy decently — even indeed according to the painful and astringent dictate of the South's primitive ways. She carefully tried to instill in him the need for the humble behavior expected of Negroes by white supremacists of that section.

"Son," Mrs. Bradley said to young Emmett before he left for his holiday in the South, "remember, when you go down South be careful. Avoid trouble. If necessary, get down on your hands and knees to the white folks to avoid trouble!"

The advice—hardly the kind Negro youngsters should be given today — was nevertheless of little value. For the lesson Money, Miss., teaches is that there is no way to avoid trouble in the South, when 'peckerwoods" are bent on creating trouble for Negroes. Moreover, the Negro who genuflects to prejudice will never gain the white man's respect — instead he invites violence.

Savagery, Southern Style

Defender P4

What manner of white men can brutally kidnap, bind, mutilate and lynch a boy and throw his body into a river? What angers can reach the proportions where white men are inspired to do bloody violence to a child? What fury can wipe the minds clean of reason and morality—and indeed Christian forbearance?

Chicago Ill.

The psychiatrist perhaps can offer a rational explanation for their bloody conduct. But from where we stand, the answer is an old, old story: These men were, after all, products of a southern tradition that has become the white man's burden.

By training and environment, they were taught to regard Negroes cheaply and less than human—much as one feels toward a mongrel dog. From birth, they were taught an intricate system of taboos, of renunciations and compensations, of manners, voice modulations, words, feelings, along with their prayers and toilet habits.

They were taught that all Negroes have their place and must be kept in it, or else a terrifying disaster will befall the South. Consequently, they can do violence to a Negro boy without trauma of any sort. For they split their consciences from their acts, and indeed can justify their bloody behavior on the grounds that they are upholding southern tradition.

Young Emmett was playfully behaving in the characteristic manner of youngsters. For he was charged with having whistled at a pretty lady. This is an American folkway, which has long received applause as a delightful and flattering way of admiring attractive females. Even the girls delight in this harmless game between the sexes.

Sat 9-17-55

But Emmett was a Negro and in the southern white man's view, violated a racial taboo. Consequently, they determined in their warped minds to punish him, even to the extent of lynching. If every man and boy, white and Negro, was lynched for whistling at a pretty girl, the male population of the U. S., would soon be exterminated.

The fact is, the white men involved in Emmett's lynching are sick — sick with racial prejudice, a disease that plagues the South today. But the blood of this boy is on the hands of every legislator, educator and Christian leader of the South, because traditionally they have failed to publicly condemn such criminal acts and by their silence condoned such senseless and inhuman conduct against Negroes.

They Did It For Us.

An Editorial

More eloquently than our words could ever do it, the Le Flore county grand jury sitting in Greenwood, Miss., last week gave an incontrovertible picture of its concept of justice.

Under consideration by the 20-man all-white jury were kidnapping charges against J. W. Milam and Roy Bryant, two white men.

They were accused of having kidnapped from his uncle's home in Money, Miss., a 14-year-old Chicago boy, Emmett Till, a Negro, whose body was found mutilated in the Tallahatchie river early in September.

At the time of the discovery of the body, the lad's uncle, Moses Wright, said the two men had come to his home on the night of August 28 and taken the boy away to "punish" him for wolf-whistling at Bryant's wife.

The men admitted at that time that the uncle's account of their invading the home and taking the youth was correct. They had taken him, they said, but they hadn't killed him.

They were tried for murder and acquitted. There was widespread criticism of this action, and Mississippi officials went to great lengths to defend the acquittal of the men.

Last week, Moses Wright repeated his story of how the two men came to his home and took the boy away. Police must have had a record of the earlier statement of Milam and Bryant admitting they had taken the youth.

But the grand jury voted a "no bill." This means there was not enough evidence to substantiate the kidnapping charges.

As we said before, the grand jury itself, has given us a better picture of what is termed "justice" in Mississippi than we could ever do.

Integrity Above Dramatics

In dropping Mrs. Mamie Bradley, the mother of Emmett Till, as the principal speaker at its rallies being held all over the country, the NAACP placed its integrity and good name above the dramatics of the moment.

The mother of the boy slain in Mississippi by hoodlums who have been set free would perhaps attract bigger crowds and raise more money than would any other single individual. But the national association forgot about the crowds and the money sorely needed by the NAACP treasury when Mrs. Bradley asked for a personal fee for her services.

The NAACP does not commercialize on the unfortunate victims of injustice. All monies contributed at the Emmett Till rallies go into the NAACP treasury to be used to fight other cases of injustice. Everything goes to the cause. Not a penny goes into anyone's pocket.

The association expected, of course, to pay the expense of Mrs. Bradley and of anyone else who goes on tour but its principles permit it to pay the expenses and nothing else.

It is unfortunate that the rift between Mrs. Bradley and the NAACP occurred, but under the circumstances there was nothing else for the NAACP to do but replace Mrs. Bradley.

Our Opinions

Till Case Repercussions

If Mississippi thinks the Emmett Till case is dead, the people of that parochial state are badly mistaken. The repercussions have been wide and pervasive.

For example, public reaction in Africa and Europe to the acquittal of two white men accused of murdering the 14-year-old Negro was swift, violent and universal and did much to seriously damage United States prestige abroad.

Even the Vatican's official mouthpiece, L'Osservatore Romano, deplored that "a crime against an adolescent victim remained unpunished." The paper asserted editorially that the fight against racial prejudice must be supported by all citizens who want to rid the nation of a "stain."

The American Jewish Committee, alarmed by the processes of law in Mississippi, urged that Federal legislation to strengthen the Justice Department's civil rights powers be enacted.

The committee made three recommendations:

1. Strengthening existing Federal laws to make attacks against an individual because of his race, color or religion a violation of United States civil rights statues.

2. Reorganizing the Department of Justice to raise the Civil Rights Section to Divisional status under an Assistant Attorney General with powers to investigate and prosecute all offenses against civil rights.

3. Increasing the personnel of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to the extent necessary to investigate all violations of civil rights under Federal Law and to provide the necessary training and instruction of all these agents.

Senator Paul H. Douglas, Democrat of Illinois, a civil rights advocate, declares that "It is certainly time that we strengthen our Federal statues to make attacks against an individual because of his race, color or religion a violation of our Federal law."

Mr. Douglas agrees that an official of sub-Cabinet rank be installed with power to investigate and prosecute offenses against civil rights and the F.B.I. be augmented and trained to run down violations in that field.

We heartily concur with both Mr. Douglas and the American Jewish Committee and urge swift action. For the long-pending civil rights program got nowhere in the first session of Congress.

Mississippi, as a consequence of the Till case, has merely earned a renewed drive for civil rights action by the Federal government.

Where Is Uncle Sam?

Mississippi has done her dirty work and Uncle Sam hasn't made a move to stop her.

The average man on the street is still perplexed over the failure of the Justice department to take action in the Till case. Lawyers and others similarly trained in legal procedures may understand the technicalities which have prompted U. S. officials to say that they have no jurisdiction in the case, but Mr. Average American Citizen just doesn't understand how his federal government can sit idly by, watch a reign of terror snuff out lives and do nothing about it.

Nor is it made any easier to understand when the FBI enters a New York kidnapping case in which there is no more evidence that the victim has been taken across state lines than there is in the Till case.

If the FBI can immediately go into the Stephen Damman case in New York, why can it not investigate the Till case? If, as a Mississippi jury ruled, the body found in the Tallahatchie river in Mississippi was not that of Emmett Till, where is the young Chicago boy? The FBI has as much reason to presume that he was

taken out of Mississippi as it has to believe that the Damman lad was taken out of New York.

But even if the contrast in the FBI attitude in the two cases had not come to light, there should have been federal intervention in the Till case long ago. The repercussions—international as well as national—in the Till case have grown to such proportions that we fail to see how the federal government can fail to make an investigation—even at this late date.

The United States constitution forbids the federal government from intervening in matters which are strictly intra-state. But in this constitutional provision, there is the implication that each and every one of the 48 states which make up the union will act with the dignity of a sovereign commonwealth.

It was not presumed by our founding fathers that states would openly defy every law of decency as Mississippi has done in its reign of terror against law-abiding citizens of color. The federal constitution does not protect such action. The attorney general and the FBI must no longer tolerate it.

A sweeping federal investigation to halt terrorism in Mississippi should be ordered immediately. Even though J. W. Milam and Roy Bryant can never again be tried for murder or kidnaping in the case, such a probe would perhaps thwart the ambitions of future Milams and Bryants. Such an investigation is long overdue.

The Mississippi Lynch--Murder

The kidnap-murder of a young teen-ager in Mississippi last week was nothing short of a lynching. The lad was on a visit to that state with his mother who apparently was reared in the community in which the child was killed. World

The story goes that he was accused of making insulting remarks in the presence or to the wife of a white store-keeper. On the following Sabbath, the youth was found killed and his body thrown into a creek. He was found by another lad while fishing.

This story is an old one. Over and over again it has been told of like crimes enacted for such frivoulous things as alleged in this account. The latest reports are to the effect that the sheriff of this (Leflore) County said that two white men, Roy Bryant, husband of the woman allegedly insulted, and J. W. Milan, his half brother already charged with kidnaping the youth, will be also charged with murder. Tues. 9-6-55

We now come to the sad pass of seeing the ugly head of lynching move again above the troubled waters of this cold war in which we find ourselves engulfed. Traveling from the early scenes of yesterday's enactments of the orgies of rope and fagot, we come to a new order. meant to obtain the same objective as the old. This underground course is nevertheless as much of a violation of one's civil rights as the other. P6

We have had cases here in Georgia of such nature to be closed with — "This person came to his death at the hands of a party or parties unknown to this jury." This procedure went on, making life and property insecure and rendering a condition of fear in our rural areas. Birmingham, Ala.

The tide of lynching went unstemmed and while there was a letup in those lynchings that inevitably would come to view, the number was made up in those flagrant underground methods.

Cases of this nature in order to come under jurisdiction of the Federal government must conform to the regulations by which the federal courts may take jurisdiction.

Many of these cases have been of a nature as to render them beyond the jurisdiction of the United States courts. In that the practice has been allowed to go on almost unmolested.

Those citizens who love our country and appreciate its good offices in this cold war period and its broad influence in the field of world relations, are alarmed at the situation in Mississippi. They want to see these grave dangers and agencies of fear removed from the borders of our Democracy.

Let the Mississippi murder be probed to the bottom. The wound in the breast of this poor mother, who happened to take her child on a peaceful mission down in Mississippi, can never be healed.

We realize that this section is feeling a wave of reaction as a result of recent court decisions, but change is inevitable and civilized people are expected to make it without recourse to violence and murder.

Local and state officials should move to reduce this reaction and take steps to punish the guilty. Otherwise, Congress will be compelled to pass legislation to make racial crimes subject to more severe punishment than the present federal statutes permit.

Tell It To Old Grandma

Your name and address must be given on letter ★ But upon request, name will often be withheld at the Editor's discretion ★ We reserve the right to shorten letters ★ No poetry, please ★ Repeat: No letter will be printed unless Editor knows who wrote it.

NAACP Is Inconsistent

Advertiser

EDITOR, THE ADVERTISER—I cannot condone the brutal slaying of 14-year-old Emmett Till in Mississippi, but I must comment on the inconsistency in the lines used by the NAACP in various cases. The foremost case in my mind is that of Jeremiah Reeves, maniac and part-time drummer. 8-4-A

In the Mississippi case, the boys from Chicago are loudly demanding the maximum penalty, with asides in mambo concerning the people of the South. Not too long ago, however, the local Mau-Maus saw fit to spend a deal of money to assure that in the case of the people vs. Reeves, Brer Reeves should never be required to pay the penalty so justly meted out by the jury. Result of long and arduous searching, a loophole was found and said Reeves waxes fat and sassy in Kilby to this day. Montgomery 8-7-55

But where is the consistency in the attitudes used on these occasions by the NAACP? The only consistency is that regardless of guilt or innocence, a Negro must not be punished in a court of law in the South. Wash 9-7-55

Let's face it, Ed.—us po' whites are being discriminated against.

Montgomery. WILLIAM A. DAVIS.

MISSISSIPPI IS ON THE HOT GRIDDLE

Opelousas

Mississippi, like some of her sister southern states, finds itself on a spot which they are sorry for at this particular time. Mississippi is one of the diehards on school integration. Many of its "best citizens", according to the press, have organized councils for the purpose of putting economic and social pressure on those Negroes who dare take the leadership in their fight for civil and political rights. And they state that their activities would be "legal." Miami Herald 9-8-55

Taking a cue from some of those "best people" and mad anyway because Negroes are making progress, the poor whites decide to use "illegal methods" to intimidate them, and that accounts for the abduction of Emmett Till from his uncle's home in Money, Mississippi and whose body was later found in the river with bullet wounds in it.

Gov. Stratton, who is opposed to integrated schools, recognized that Mississippi had been placed in a very ackward position and promised punishment for the wrongdoers. A few leading citizens and newspapers spoke out against the tragedy.

Some see in such incidents lawlessness which they did not anticipate when they sought to flaunt the law of the land, even though old deep rooted customs are plowed under; some who dared not speak out against lawlessness found allies in their belief in orderly government.

Of course, there are white people in Mississippi who do not approve the intimidation and discrimnaton which go on against Negroes over the years. Many have not had the courage to speak out; some like Hoddin Carter, daily newspaper editor, has done so without fear or favor.

Three Mississippi daily newspapers condemned the kidnap slaying and called for vigorous prosecution. Two men have been indicted for the crime and undoubtedly will be convicted and punished for their conduct has put the "good people" who are leading the fight on integration in a bad spot before the eyes of the world.

Don't Let Lynching Go Underground

At the outset of this war on lynching those, probably fine meaning people who wanted to feel that lynching had disappeared from the face of the earth, contended that the Till murder was not a lynching. There also were those who took issue in such a discussion as when a lynching is not a lynching. In spite of all this the little Till boy had died an ingloriu death and was lost as dead as from any cause.

The trial of the accused persons for this ugly crime and their subsequent release brought down many criticisms of the conduc; and final outcome of the trial. Some went so far as to allow that the law was lynched. In the face of glaring evidence in which the ring Till wore with his late father's initial theron, and his own mother's firm identity of her son, the verdict brought in showed the doubt of the jury in being convinced that the long chain of circumstantial evidence did not place Bryant and Milan on the scene of the murder nor as the ones who conspired and murdered young Till,, notwithstanding the fact that they were the last ones seen with him alvie and their own admission that they took him from the farmhouse on that ill fated night in Mississippi.

In the old days lynching took on those horrid scenes of ancient human hangings in which the young men turned out with their elders to get at first sight a picture of the early pattern of reprisal that was initiated for the terror of the freed men. In that the lynched victim was allowed to hang to his tree, shot full of holes for that inerasible lesson to his coming generations.

The patent verdicts ran: "This person came to his death at the hand or hands of a person or persons unknown to this jury." That was the usual and which closed the chapter of the murder.

Then lynching as such became a running sore to the chagrin and embarrassment of the community involved. With appeal after appeal for the federal government to take jurisdiction in lynching cases, there was seen a tendency of carrying it on in more of a private manner. In that we saw in the case of Mallard, that victim who met his death at Lyons Georgia while riding with his wife in a new automobile and those two couples lynched by "private parties" near Monroe a more appropriate form of murder which might not technically qualify as lynchings.

We come to the Emmett Till case, still current in Mississippi, which was enacted so skillfully as to bring on a press dispute as to whether it were really a lynching!

When such a temperment in its contagion fixes its eyes on the temple of justice itself, there is no wonder in a case of outright wilful murder, a jury would in the face of open guilt, recommend mercy in order to detou rthe culprit from the supreme penalty when a racial question is involved.

Those who have fought on this battle front in a challenge of the lynch spirit and its practice should take notice of these new forms in which the lynchings occur. To meet this issue federal laws must be passed to give federal jurisidiction over racial crimes.

Ole Miss Hanged White Man in 1890 For Killing Negro

GRENDA, Miss. — (ANP) — The acquittal last week in Sum- [illegible] of Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam on charges of murdering a Negro boy, has raised doubt in the minds of many persons as to whether or not a white persons in Mississippi ever has paid the supreme price for a crime against a colored person.

Off hand most people would say that never has happened in Mississippi, but a little reseach refutes this belief. True, one has to go a long way back to find an instance, but nevertheless it is there.

It occurred in 1890, just 40 miles away from Summer, the little town which was in the news last week as the site of the trial of Bryant and Milam for the murder of Emmett L. Till, 14-year-old Chicagoan who was visiting his great uncle near Money, Miss.

Sixty five years ago M. J. Cheatham, a Tennessean who had lived here since 1880, was sentenced to die for shooting a Negro in the back and dumping his body into the Yalobusha river.

The victim, Jim Tillman, had testified against Cheatham in a gambling trial and was slated to testify in another. Cheatham was acquitted in the first trial. Convicted however, he was hanged on March 19, 1890.

Tension was so high preceding the hanging that the sheriff, fearful of an attempt to interfere with the hanging, ordered all Negroes to stay out of Grenada and only allowed white men to witness the hanging.

8917

Emmett Till Remembered As Quiet, Well-Mannered Boy

Journal + Guide

By JOHN BARROW

CHICAGO — (INS) — The pulse beat of a Mississippi murder trial is throbbing in Chicago.

Sat. 9-24-55

Two white men are on trial at Sumner, Miss., for the murder of 14-year-old Emmett Louis Till, a Chicago Negro accused of "wolf whistling" at the wife of one of the men.

P. 14

WHEN ROY Bryant, 24 and J. W. Milam, 35, stepped befor Circuit Judge Curtis Swango, the drama began to zip like virus through the veins of Negroes and white people alike.

Norfolk Va.

On Chicago's South Side where young Emmett — or "Bobo,' as he was nicknamed —lived and played, heartfelt pity was voiced by neighbors, playmates, his school principal and the pastor of his church.

* * *

MILES AWAY from the Chicago church where several thousand persons milled during the Sept. 6 funeral runs the elm-shaped stretch of St. Lawrence avenue where Bobo lived.

It is a family neighborhood where many own the buildings where they live.

* * *

SUCH A WOMAN is Mrs. Luella Johnson, mother of four grown children, who lives in a two-flat building just south of Bobo's home.

"Why that boy could no more whistle than he could fly," Mrs. Johnson exclaimed. "He had a stammer. He had a hard time talking at all. He hardly ever said much."

* * *

SHE RELATED that Bobo's mother, 33-year-old Mrs. Mamie Bradley, bought the two-flat next door with her mother, Mrs. Alma Spearman in 1951. And Bobo, a Little League baseball player, often was torn between house chores and playing with his neighborhood buddies.

Mrs. Johnson laughed: "He kept that house a-shining. But one day I remember he was painting the garage. He'd paint a while and then run over to Arthur's and play ball a while and then run back to painting. He surely wanted to be painting when his mama showed up from work.

* * *

HER MANNER grew sad. "He only got one coat of paint on," she said. "I asked, 'where's Bobo? How come he don't finish painting?' And his mother said, 'He got on the City of New Orleans (a train of the Illinois Central Railroad) and went to see his uncle.'"

The woman's married daughter, Mrs. Eva Johnson, remembered Bobo as a "very mannered boy."

* * *

"HE NEVER bothered with grownups—only played with boys, baseball, basketball," she said. "He was a good boy. Why, the comic books he bought were Little Lulu, Superman and Space Patrol. Never any dirty or nasty pictures."

A funny story about Bobo occurred to the younger Mrs. Johnson she chuckled:

* * *

"IT WAS THE time he was going to surprise his mother with a cake. A gold cake. Made of eggs like a pound cake, only he was using ready-mix.

"He called me over with a yell and said, 'What's the matter with this?'

* * *

"LORD A MERCY, he'd watched it 'til it began to rise—then he began stirring it! I told him it was ruined. He'd just better quit."

Both women went silent. The elder Mrs. Johnson was sitting, with her back to an ornate tile fireplace, and staring out the bay window where she used to see Bobo coming home from school . . .

* * *

"HE NEVER WAS in any trouble here," said Curtis Melnick, principal of James McCosh Elementary school.

The school, named after a Scottish president of Princeton University of the 1890's, handles 1,600 pupils from kindergartent through eighth grade. All the youngsters are Negro, but Melnick and part of his faculty are white.

THE PRINCIPAL, a hard-working broad shouldered man in his middle 40's wearing glasses with a cracked lens, turned from a PTA meeting on "Racial Assimulation" and said:

"Emmett never was a disciplinary problem. He tended to be quiet. As a student he was average."

* * *

OTHER TEACHERS spoke of the boy as "close to his mother and a steady church goer."

In Argo, a dozen miles west of Chicago's Midway Air Terminal, the pastor of the Church of God in Christ, said Emmett rode the 63rd street bus for more than an hour from his home almost every Sunday to attend the church of his childhood.

* * *

WHEELER PARKER, assistant superintendent of the Sunday school, racks up a near-perfect attendance record for Emmett, too. He is an uncle of Emmett. And it was his son, Wheeler, Jr., who accompanied the Till boy on the ill-fated visit to his uncle, Mose Wright, in Money, Miss.

On his return he told Chicago newsmen:

* * *

"I GUESS EMMETT was killed because of the wolf whistle that was whistled at a pretty white lady in the store."

The woman was Mrs. Roy Bryant who helped her husband tend a grocery in the tiny delta community. The boys had gone into the store to buy some bubble gum on Wednesday, Aug. 24. Young Parker said:

* * *

"THE LADY GOT mad and some of the local boys told us we'd better get out of town fast. Later a girl told us we hadn't heard the end of it."

It was early Sunday, Aug. 28, that Emmett was whisked from his uncle's home. Leflore County Deputy Sheriff John Ed Cothran picked up Bryant the same day on suspicion of kidnaping. Formal charges were filed against Bryant and Milam the next day.

* * *

AND THE following day, Aug. 30, a boy's body—head crushed and weighted by a 150-pound fan assembly from a cotton gin—was found in the Tallahatchie river. Emmett's mother identified the corpse as that of her son . . .

Emmett was the only child of Mrs. Bradley, whose husband, Luis Till, an Army veteran of the African and Italian campaigns, died in Europe in 1945.

* * *

MRS. BRADLEY is attending the trial.

Haunted by memories of her boy before he went South, the bereaved mother said:

* * *

"HE WAS SICK a lot of the time. He caught polio when he was five—a non-paralytic type, but it left him with a speech defect—and he was always catching everything that came around. Measles, mumps, everything, keeping him out of school for days at a time."

Recalling the days before his trip, she said:

* * *

"HE WORE his father's ring. It was a signet ring made in France or Italy, with his intials L. T. It was so big that Emmett used to pack it with tape so it wouldn't drop off his finger."

This ring was found with the body that was dragged from the river in Mississippi. And when the body was shipped to Chicago, Mrs. Bradley instructed the funeral home to leave the casket open "so everybody can see what they did to my boy."

As thousands passed the bier, attendants said "about every 10th person fainted at the sight."

* * *

"THE EYES OF the world are on that trial," said Mrs. Cora Patton, president of the Chicago Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

"It's not going to help the United States' situation in Europe and Asia if a fair and just trial is not held."

'Tens Of Thousands' Saw Body Of Lynching Victim

Journal and Guide

The Journal and Guide received this week a letter from Senior Bishop W. J. Walls, of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, which describes how thousands of people viewed the mangled remains of Emmett Louis Till, the 14-year-old boy who was kidnaped and lynched in Mississippi. The lynchers accused the boy of "whistling" at a white woman.

Bishop Wall's letter follows:

Sat 9-24-55

Editor, Journal and Guide:

"I note the headlines in your glorious paper of the week of September 10 are very appropriate concerning the racial maladjustments in the South.

"I write only to say that the sub-headline on those who viewed the body of Emmett Louis Till, the boy lynched in Mississippi, whose wake was held here in Chicago, that not "Hundreds View Body" as your headline states but tens of thousands viewed the body.

"The wake lasted five days and the line was continuous from a block and a half to two blocks long, continuously, and guarded by a dozen policemen constantly throughout the day from about 8 o'clock in the morning until past midnight. On the last night, the line continued throughout the whole night. During the two holidays, Sunday and Labor Day and a half-holiday Saturday, there was great liberty for assembly of both Whites and Blacks and they took advantage of it. The daily papers each day have had articles on the matter.

"I write to remind you of this because the headlines at that point were faint and far below the history of the matter.

"Here's congratulating you on the continuous growth and beautification of the Journal and Guide. Your achievement has been of great value and decidedly world-wide in the prestige which it brings to our race group."

8918

By William A. Fowlkes

Inside Mississippi And the Till Case

GREENWOOD, Miss.—Before you get into this Mississippi delta region, you are made to realize the deep disrespect and fear it has generated in the minds of other Americans.

First, your wife and kids are momentarily stunned at the announcement that you have been assigned to cover another phase of the Mississippi Till story . . . in person . . . and not by telephone or rewrite.



Mr. Fowlkes

"Daddy! . . ." the big one exclaims almost hysterically and in disgust. "For heaven's sake!" the little one almost shouts, wringing her hands and frowning with expressions of fear and pity.

Then you try to assure them that Mississippi is still one of the forty-eight states of the nation, which still has a union that proclaims itself to be the "greatest democracy on earth." After all, you've been inside Mississippi before . . . to play football while in high school. Then, too, you were born just 109 miles north of the Mississippi line in Tennessee. You've been hearing of the meanness and hardness of Mississippians all your life. And, you try to explain to yourself and the anxious ones, that Mississippians are made of flesh and blood just like you.

However, you can understand the family fear for their "soldier" to go marching off into America's "backward" lands where 14-year-old Emmett Till, of Chicago, had been lynched and his body weighted down in a Mississippi tributary.

But, when you try the announcement out on a few friends, you get a full dressing down on what is really thought about Mississippi, "the hell-hole of the nation." Not just the expressions of trivial or casual fears, but all kinds of scared-to-the-nth-degree fears for your life, limb and general safety.

You are told to "be careful" in more ways and with more language than "Private X" must have been briefed on before the Normandy invasion or at the Battle of the Bulge.

Then you truly realize that Mississippi has become in America what Siberia is reported to be in Russia—a land to stay out of and keep away from as much as possible.

Even at the "border"—in neighboring Alabama—folks tell you they "used to" go over into Mississippi towns and have a good time. But, not since the little boy, Emmett Till, was lynched and the Citizens' Councils have been acting up.

Yes, sir, you are made to know that Mississippi is Ameria's star "bad actor." Nobody loves her ways; not even Mississippians!

* * *

LOCAL PRESSURE was heavily against indictment of J. W. Milam and Roy Bryant in the kidnapping of Emmett Till, whose lynched body was found in an adjoining county.

Reporters to the Sumner murder trial follow-up could sense the tension and the sneering, determined attitudes of courthouse visitors and the man-about-the-streets. Even though the rather quiet atmosphere of LeFlore's big, pretty courthouse was in extreme contrast to that of Sumner's bitterness and elbow-rubbing tension, the supremacy attitude was there.

The local Citizens' Council staged a big meeting while the twenty-man grand jury was in its three-day "full session."

* * *

MOSES WRIGHT, who fled his sharecropper farm after testifying in the Sumner Till murder trial, said he expects to receive a check for his share of the estimated twenty-five-bale cotton crop he cultivated near Money, Miss.

Wright said his landlord was "a good man." The 'cropper claimed he had picked seventeen bales of cotton before leaving and learned that around eight bales had been harvested since.

* * *

THE NEGRO man-in-the-street was not too surprised at the "no-bill" which the LeFlore County grand jury returned to the state's kidnap charges against Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam.

"They're mean and dirty," was the common designation given to the county group which erased the last charge the state "reluctantly" brought against the white men allegedly involved in the disappearance of Emmett Till, 14-year-old Chicago boy.

DESPITE NEWSPAPER and personal threats of reprisals from the Citizens' Council, there is considerable resolve and determination against fear by a large number of Greenwood Negroes.

After a cross—the ancient handiwork of the Ku Klux Klan—was burned in front of one businessman's place, there was said to be a strengthening of the arsenal.

Householders and others issued warnings: "They won't take me or anything that is mine out of this place without "meeting 'hell' itself."

* * *

NEGRO COTTON pickers and soy bean crop harvesters still live in a state of semi-slavery in the Mississippi Delta region according to hurriedly gathered surveys. Being bound to the land and to the landlords of large plantations, they cannot move freely except in the fields.

* * *

A MOVE is being made to organize a "Sumner Survivors" club.

The unit will include those newsmen and investigators who faced tension, possible violence, intimidation and arrest during the ill-famed Sumner trial of J. W. Milam and Roy Bryant for murder of 14-year-old Chicagoan Emmett Till.

* * *

A LABOR representative, touring the South and observing the LeFlore County area during the Milam-Bryant grand jury kidnap hearing, had this to say about "attitudes":

"These guys don't seem to know that the big stake is not 'saving the South', but saving America's world leadership."

Till Case: The Aftermath

The Till lynching in Mississippi may prove the straw which broke the camel's back.

Three thousand letters have been written by disturbed Americans to the Department of Justice condemning the outrage or asking Federal intervention.

In addition, letters signed and letters anonymous have been mailed to Sheriff H. C. Strider of Tallahatchie County and other Mississippi officials who, many believe, failed in their sworn duty to find the necessary evidence and prosecute vigorously the Till kidnap-killers.

So we find officials in a Mississippi community which permits and encourages lawlessness in a situation where they want protection from those who now threaten their lives.

THAT IS THE difficulty with lawlessness and mob rule.

It cannot be confined.

The lyncher today is the lynched tomorrow.

That is the reason the Till case may prove the beginning of the end of Mississippi lynchings.

We cannot defend our democracy to ourselves or to the world with a thesis on the limitations of the Federal courts where crimes are committed in the states.

Americans are citizens of the state and the United States.

When state government falls down in the apprehension and punishment of criminals the Federal Government must accept its responsibility for acting as a result of the failure of the state to act.

IN THE PAST the Department of Justice has used its imagination to invent new methods within the law to punish income tax evaders, gamblers and subversives.

The FBI has done an excellent job of investigating conspiracy against the rights of citizens under Section 241 of the U.S. Code and deprivation of the rights of citizens under color of law under Section 242 of the same code.

These are the surviving sections of the Civil Rights Acts of 1870.

They cover:

1. Violations in which any person conspires to injure, oppress, threaten or intimidate any citizen in the free exercise of any right or privilege, and

2. Violations in which any person under color of law ordinance, regulation or custom subjects any citizen to the deprivation of any rights, privileges or immunities protected by the U.S. Constitution.

* * *

WE SUBMIT that these statutes reach members of the White Citizens Councils of Mississippi, whose boldly announced aim is to keep colored citizens from voting.

We think they also apply to those Mississippi residents who fire colored persons from jobs or deny customary credit to farmers merely because they register to vote, sign petitions for integrated schools or join the NAACP.

8919



"RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LYNCHING OF A FIFTEEN YEAR OLD BOY."

A Case for the FBI

Call

Mass meetings are being held all over the country in protest against the acquittal of the two men accused of kidnapping and killing young Emmett Louis Till. The nation's leading newspapers are branding Mississippi's farcical justice a blot on America as a whole.

And truly the Till case is a reflection not only on Mississippi and the South but upon the entire United States. Fri, 10-7-55

Since it is quite apparent, from accounts written by correspondents for this and other newspapers, that Mississippi has no intention of punishing the slayers of Till, it is up to the federal government to step into the case in an attempt to remove the stain that has been placed upon American democracy. P. 20

Since the trial ended, it has been disclosed that two witnesses, who probably could have pointed an accusing finger at Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam, were hidden away in a jail under assumed names to keep them from testifying. If this is true and the two men can be found alive, there has definitely been a mistrial in the Till case. Kansas City, Mo.

The state's witness who told of seeing the boy Till with Bryant and Milam and two other men riding in a truck and who later said that he heard death screams coming from a barn has fled the state of Mississippi. In the comparative safety of Michigan, he would probably tell more than he dared say from the witness stand in Mississippi. If Ace Reporter Jimmie Hicks was frightened during and after the trial, there is no wonder that men and women who have known little else but Mississippi plantation life all their days were terrified. In testifying against two white men, the uncle of young Till and Willie Reed, the "secret" witness, displayed courage which Negroes in the North are never called upon to match.

The NAACP, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and the Jewish Labor committee have called upon Attorney General Herbert Brownell to order an FBI investigation into the disappearance of two men believed to have been witnesses to the slaying. If two men Leroy Collins and Henry Lee Loggins have not been seen or heard of since the body of Louis Till was found, there is good reason to believe that they may be the victims of foul play. These two men must be found, if they are alive, before the second trial of Milam and Bryant, on kidnapping charges, is held.

The Department of Justice should step into the Till case. If the Negro citizens of Mississippi cannot look to their state government for protection, then they should be able to turn to Uncle Sam.

The rumors that young Till is still alive are ridiculous. The identification of the body by the boy's mother and the ring given to the boy by his father are evidence enough to most people that the body taken from the river was that of the Chicago lad.

Young Till is dead and the persons responsible for his death must be punished.

The Till Case Verdict

Advocate

Up at Sumner last Friday, after consuming the better part of four days in the shifting and weighing of the evidence and testimony, after hearing the exposition of the law in the argument of the opposing lawyers, and the instructions of the judge as to the law applicable in the case, an all white jury returned a verdict of "not guilty" in the trial of two white men charged with murder in the death of Emmett Louis Till, the 14-year-old Negro boy in the now internationally famous "wolf whistle" incident. Sat 10-1-55 P. 8 Jackson, Miss.

There appears to be enough in the case to justify the verdict in the eyes of those who would apply the strict letter of the law in such cases.

In the forum of world opinion however, judging from the world wide reaction to the verdict there must be times when the strict letter and interpretation of the law must give way to the demands of the higher virtues of justice, morality, right and christianity.

Negroes in Mississippi with a deep understanding of the traditions and mores out of which such incidents arise, who remained tranquill during the trial, will continue to remain tranquil, secured by the knowledge that they and their cause have been helped, rather than hurt, by the "not guilty" verdict in the case.

Acquittal In Mississippi

(From The New York Herald Tribune)

World P. 4

Every person is entitled to an opinion on the accuracy and justice of the jury's verdict of acquittal in Mississippi. The two white half-brothers accused of murdering a fourteen-year-old Negro boy have been found not guilty. In view of the circumstantial nature of the prosecution's case, and the facade of doubts as to the identity of the corpse taken from the Tallahatchie River, the jury refused to draw conclusions about a foul crime.

Some people will now say that the State of Mississippi, rife with political and economic inflammation over the desegregation issue, has hereby condoned lynching. That, however, is an unfair and intemperate judgment. The case was one of murder, an individual crime, not lynching, a community crime. All must admit that indictments were swiftly returned, that Governor White assigned a competent special prosecutor, and that Judge Swango's conduct of the case was irreproachable. This is commendable. But the offense nevertheless remains. The boy Emmett Till was abducted from his uncle's home, and if he was not mur-

dered, where is he? Birmingham, Ala.

The charges of kidnaping are still to be considered. Perhaps these will produce a different result. Certainly there was an outrage committed, and those responsible should be punished. And here the obligation for decency and justice continues to rest on the law-abiding elements of Mississippi.

The Mississippi Verdict And Justice

(From The Montgomery Advertiser)

A Negro boy is foully murdered in Mississippi.

The law grinds into action without hesitation. The solicitor marshals the evidence.

A grand jury promptly indicts two white men.

The Governor of Mississippi assigns a prosecutor out of the Attorney General's office to help the county solicitor.

The prosecutors are plainly energetic in persuading reluctant and frightened witnesses to take the stand against the accused. As a mark of that energy, the prosecutors are still turning up new witnesses in the course of the trial.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, an emotional, suspicious group, congratulates the trial judge during the trial for his cool impartiality.

Up until that point, no man could criticize the course of justice in Mississippi.

The jury retires, returns with a verdict in an hour. It finds the defendants not guilty.

At which time an NAACP spokesman degrades himself with a bellow that the jurors are communists.

The Advertiser will not venture to say whether the verdict was impartial. We did not hear the evidence, though we had formed the opinion that the accused were guity. But it is another thing to sit oath-bound on a jury, solemnly committed to free the accused unless convinced "beyond reasonable doubt" of his guilt. That is a terrible responsibility.

It would have been criminal had the jurors convicted the men purely to demonstrate by example that there was justice in Mississippi for the Negro.

In any event, the law functioned according to the theory and practice of every other state so far as anybody has shown so far.

If it was an unjust verdict, that is what has come to be called "Jersey" — not Mississippi — justice.

Here's new evidence in Till lynching

(Complete text of letter on Page 2)

NEW YORK — The fact that seven, not two, persons participated in the kidnap-lynching of 14-year-old Emmett Louis Till, was disclosed Friday in open letters addressed to Attorney General Herbert Brownell and FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover.

The letters were sent by James L. Hicks, ace AFRO correspondent, who in two trips to Mississippi, helped uncover important new evidence in the case that has shocked the world.

The seven members of the kidnap-lynch conspiracy were identified as four white men, two colored men and one white woman.

IN HIS plain-spoken letter, Mr. Hicks points out to Mr. Brownell specific Federal statutes which were violated in the investigation of the Till case.

He also names witnesses, whom, he says, FBI agents could easily reach and substantiate the charges he makes.

Further he identifies law enforcement officers, whom he charges, became accessories after the fact in the conspiracy, because they acted to conceal witnesses during the trial of Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam at Sumner, Miss.

* * *

BRYANT AND Milam were acquitted of Till's murder and later a grand jury at Greenwood, Miss., refused to indict them in the kidnaping.

Disclosing that he had been informed the Federal Government was seeking some means to get in the Till case, Mr. Hicks expresses the opinion that specific Federal laws had been broken in the conduct of the case.

* * *

J. EDGAR HOOVER is implored to send FBI abents into Mississippi to dig out the necessary information that could result in prosecution of the five other persons who participated in the crime as well as law enforcement officers, whom he says, appeared to be hiding them.

Concluding his letter, Mr. Hicks renews his offer to return to Mississippi if Federal officials feel they could use his services in helping secure justice in the case that has stirred the world.

8921

Mississippi Decision Nothing New

Afro-American

Mississippi lynch mobsters have been adjudged not guilty and freed in the wanton and brutal slaying of 14-year-old Emmett L. Till.

That is normal and regular procedure in the South.

P. 4

If lynchers were properly punished as a matter of course, mobs would quickly disappear.

Sat. 10-1-55

Consider the story of Carrie Bryant which instituted the whole Mississippi mess. In first reports this white girl said a colored boy whistled at her. By trial time the whistle had magnified itself into a suggestion of sexual contact.

NPN Baltimore, Md. 2A

That, too, was expected and is according to formula in case after case in the backward states.

A white woman of the lower element frequently gets out of any difficulty, personal or legal, by saying a colored man attacked her.

The same day the sex angle was injected into the Mississippi lynching case a white woman in Maryland had police looking two days for a Puerto Rican who drove her into the woods and robbed her of $200.

Grilled by smart detectives she confessed she made up the tale.

So there is nothing new in the Mississippi trial—victim kidnapped and lynched; woman concocts story of sex attack, mob members arrested, tried and freed.

The NAACP records show 6,000 lynchings. Wearing the lynching crown and leading all other states in this kind of lawlessness is Mississippi.

New Till Evidence Disclosed In Letter

Afro American

Sat. 11-26-55

(An open letter to U.S. Attorney General Herbert Brownell and FBI Chief J. Edgar Hoover.)

P. 2 NEW YORK

Gentlemen:

Baltimore, Md.

As an American, I have been deeply disappointed that the arm of the Federal government, headed by your respective offices, has not seen fit to enter into the murder of 14-year-old Emmett Till of Chicago.

As citizen interested in following the case, I have recently picked up rumors that at long last either one or both of your offices may finally intervene and investigate the case.

And as a newspaperman interested in simple justice, I submit herewith to your high offices certain information on the case which I know to be true.

I feel certain if aggressively pursued, it will prove to the world that four white men, aided by two colored men, killed Emmett Till and threw his body into the Tallahatchie River.

* * *

HERE ARE the facts in detail:

The key to the murder is a little city called Glendora, Miss., about seven miles South of Sumner, Miss.

Send an FBI agent to Glendora. Tell him to find Reid's Cafe, located in the heart of the colored section of town. It's not hard to find.

Tell him to stand in front of the front door of Reid's Cafe, facing the door. On the right, at three o'clock on a watch dial, there will be located a small one-room shack about 40 yards from the cafe.

Tell your agent to knock on that door. Inside he will find a mother with three young children. Her name is Mrs. Henry Lee Loggins. She will tell you that she is not married to Henry Lee Loggins, but that she is his common-law wife and that he is the father of all three of her children.

* * *

MRS. LOGGINS works for J. W. Milam, one of the defendants in the Till murder trial. She picks cotton on his plantation. Her husband, Henry Lee, drives a cotton picker for Milam.

If you question this woman she will tell you that at one time shortly before the death of Emmett Till a man named Levy (Too Tight) Collins lived with her and Loggins in the little house there in Glendora.

Too Tight also worked on the Milam farm.

She will further tell you that after Till was killed and shortly before the murder trial at Sumner, "the White folks" came and took both Too Tight and Loggins.

If you ask her where they took them, she will tell you that they told her that they were being taken to the Charleston jail in Charleston; that they were going to be kept there for about two weeks and that they were not going to be harmed.

Remember that name — the Charleston jail, for it is important. But just for the moment turn your attention again to Glendora.

* * *

STAND NOW directly in front of Mrs. Loggins' little shack. If you face the door on your right, directly at "three o'clock" will be a doorway leading into a brick building. This is the back door of a building on the main colored street.

Knock on that door. Inside you will find that this is an undertaker's parlor and the home offices of one of the many burial societies owned by colored people in Mississippi.

Talk to the people there. I'm not at liberty to call their names. But if you shop around you will be directed to other people who will tell you how to locate the father of Henry Lee Loggins.

Go to Loggins' father. Press him. He will be reluctant to talk and when you finally hear his story, you will easily understand why he is reluctant to talk.

* * *

BUT WHEN you finally get his story, he will tell you that his son Henry has confessed to him that he was on the murder truck a night Emmett Till was killed.

He can tell you that his son has named to him the four or more white men—instead of two—who were involved in the kidnaping or murder.

But don't stop with the testimony of Henry's father. Ask him about the minister. Ask him to give you the name of the colored minister to whom Henry has also confessed being on that murder truck.

* * *

NAACP OFFICIALS have pleaded with this same minister to come forward and tell his story but he is afraid and will not do so. Get the name of this minister from Loggins' father.

If he will not give you his name, as a last resort, I will call an NAACP official in Clarksdale and beg him to release me from an "off the record" confidence and give it to you myself.

This NAACP official has literally begged the minister to tell the world what Loggins told him but he will not do so.

Go back now across the short space to the home of Mrs. Loggins. You can talk more intelligently now and when she discovers that you know something she will tell you more.

* * *

ASK HER where her husband, Henry, is. She will tell you that he is on the Milam farm daily but that he does not come home every night. Ask her where you can put your finger on him.

Then ask her when was the last time she saw Too Tight Collins. See if she will not tell you that she has not seen him since Oct. 10, the date on which a Chicago newspaper released him and sent him back to Mississippi.

Too Tight is still in Mississippi working for J. W. Milam.

Ask her where Too Tight's father is. She will point south and tell you that he is on a plantation just three miles away on the Eaglet farm. He can tell you a lot more about the strange actions and mysterious disappearances of his son since the death of Emmett Till.

Now, before you leave Glendora, drop into Reid's Cafe. Talk to some of the cotton pickers

hanging around there. Listen to them tell you of the big talk that has been made by Too Tight since he came back South from Chicago.

Listen to them tell how Too Tight boasts that the hole in the Till's boy's head was not a bullet hole, but a hole drilled in his head with a brace and bit by one of the white men.

* * *

GO THEN ON up to Sumner, just seven miles North and drop into Jesse Griffin's place. Talk to the guys up there and hear the same thing from the cotton pickers who hang around.

Ask them to tell you, as they told me on my second visit to Sumner, how Too Tight sat around in the tavern and related how at one time during that fateful morning he was on the back of the truck with Emmett Till and they found that despite the punishment, the boy was still not dead.

Now remember, I asked you to remember the name Charleston jail. Go to the Charleston jail and find there a young colored woman named Sarah who is serving a life term for killing a rival woman about her husband.

Sarah is a "trusty" at the jail. She is rather young, not too bad looking and she cooks for the inmates of the jail. If you investigate Sarah closely, you will find that "cooking" is not the only thing she does for the men in the jail.

She also performs other services for them, including serving the sheriff.

* * *

FOR HER services Sarah is given certain privileges which she does not wish to give up. Therefore Sarah will be reluctant to talk.

But make Sarah talk and she will tell you that during the Sumner murder trial when Sheriff H. C. Strider was saying that he could not locate Too Tight Collins, actually Collins was at that time locked up in the Charleston jail.

I have been informed that the Federal Government is looking for an "in" through which to get into the Till murder case. I'm also informed that one of the ways the Federal Government can get into the case is by proving that at the time of the murder trial key witnesses were prevented by law officers from testifying.

I submit that Too Tight Collins was a key witness. I submit that Sarah can prove that Collins was in jail during the trial. And I ask you: If Collins was in the Charleston jail, who put him there? A law officer, of course. And who is the principal law officer? Sheriff H. C. Strider.

* * *

ONE FINAL word. Mrs. Mandy Bradley is a courageous woman and took the stand to testify as to what she saw and heard during the killing of Young Till. But her husband, Alonzo Bradley, was not so courageous.

He was there with his wife and saw and heard all she heard and saw. But he was afraid to testify.

After Mrs. Bradley testified against J. W. Milam, we got her out of Mississippi. The night after she testified Alonzo Bradley went back to his home on the Milam farm—a foolish thing to do in Mississippi.

J. W. Milam came to his shack and ordered him to leave at once. Alonzo Bradley left. For days he scouted around in Mississippi, trying to raise enough money to get to Chicago and join his wife.

On my second trip to Mississippi I contacted Alonzo Bradley and helped him to get out of Mississippi. He is now in Chicago with his wife.

* * *

BEFORE HE left he told me that Leslie Milam had ordered him off the Milam farm at gun point. He also told me some other things which would be of great help to you if you are investigating the Till murder. Talk with Alonzo Bradley.

There is one more man you should talk with. His name is Frank Young. On the night we rounded up witnesses in Mississippi, Mr. Young was one of the colored men who came forward to the office of County Supervisor Townsend at Drew, Miss.

He told us he had knowledge of the murder but before he talked, he wanted to first talk to Dr. T. R. M. Howard and get assurances that he would not be harmed.

He made this statement in the offices of the county supervisor. He knew when he came there that he had been asked to come for only one purpose—to tell what he knew of the murder of Emmett Till.

Unfortunately, when Frank Young came in Dr. Howard was not there. He hung around and waited until after 4:30 a.m., until finally the white woman who had brought him in off her plantation grew tired and took him back.

THEY PROMISED that Frank Young would take the witness stand the following day. But he never did. Mr. Young has not been mentioned in connection with the trial since.

What did Frank Young have to tell?

He is easy to locate. Just go to Drew, Miss., to the offices of County Supervisor Townsend. Mr. Townsend can pick up the telephone and call the plantation on which Mr. Young works and the white woman he works for will bring him in.

That's the way they did it that night.

And, finally, go to Henry Lee Loggins. Ask Loggins if it is not a fact that on the Saturday before the recent indictment proceedings he was scheduled to go to St. Louis on a trip, financed by a Chicago newspaper, and that on arrival there, was supposed to tell all he knew about the Till murder.

ASK HIM if it is not a fact that he was taken by reporters on a round of goodbyes to all his girlfriends, and that finally he was taken to his home to say goodbye to his mother.

And ask him if it is not a fact that his mother broke down and begged him not to go. And ask him if it's not a fact that he then decided to call the whole thing off, returned the spending money he had been given and stayed in Mississippi where he is now.

Ask him if it is not a fact that he has admitted that he is afraid to tell all he knows about the Till murder because he himself was an accomplice in the crime.

If there is any additional service I can be to you two gentlemen, if and when you decide to go or send someone to investigate this murder in Mississippi, I stand ready at any time to help in whatever way possible.

Respectfully,
JAMES L. HICKS.

Religion is Realm of 'Creative Minority'

Protest Should Be Followed By Positive Action

Miss. 10-13-55

Last week in the fourth article of this series, the question was asked—but only partly answered—"after we protest—then what?"

If we are persons of color, our protestations may be for acceptance, total integration, freedom from humiliating and painful restrictions . . . greater mobility and a more equitable share of the good things of life in a culture which imposes low ceilings on a colored man's right to go up the social or economic ladder.

Oklahoma City, Okla.

For persons of no color protestations in this area of human relations—are often compensatory mouthings and excuses for treatment of men to whom Christ said, "Stretch forth they hand" as brothers. Often these persons dwell at length on the lack of preparation or readiness of their colored brothers for acceptance of integration. Too often, lately, the more rabid of them have been trying to justify racial separation and discrimination on the basis of religion. Integration has been attacked most rabidly because of some men's fears that it "will bring about a mongrel race in America."

Jackson, Miss. 10-13-55

After we protest, we come to the point at which we "must put up or shut." And there's a lot of putting up or shutting to be done on both sides of the so-called color line.

So-called black men may yell loudly and long about acceptance and integration, but they must also realize that one can't justifiably force or bully his way into acceptance. They must realize, too, that once the doors are opened, they can't stand around on the outside or dilly-dally at the threshold trying to decide, "Do I want this or not? Am I ready to give up my little gains for the larger gains to be derived therefrom, or should I hang onto the status quo a little longer?"

The so-called white man may rip race mingling, flail desegregation as an open door to "mongrelization" of humankind; but prevert and quote the Bible out of context, though he will, he cannot disprove the fact that God made mankind of one race and blood to dwell as brothers on the earth.

And if he cannot put up the facts to support his mouthings, he ought to shut up!

After we protest—then what?

Most of us do nothing. In Mississippi, there are many white folk who do not condone—and do not join—the nefarious Citizens' councils. They do not approve or take part in the vicious race-baiting—and the lynching—for which the Delta state is infamous. They even disenfranchise themselves by refusing to pay the poll tax because they do not sanction its ulterior motive—that of shackling the Negro's ballot. Yet, what has the silent protest of these whites gained them? Certainly not the respect of a world which holds them as responsible as the Milams and the Bryants for the slaying of Emmett Till.

After we protest—then what?

Most of us are so concerned for ourselves—our little authority, our vested interests, our pomp and prestige, our vaunted "leadership"—that we lose sight of or stifle, the postive action that can and should be taken, after protestations have done their work. The result of protests regarding aberrant human relations should be to condition men to turn to religion for positive constructive courses of action.

But to be a devotee of religion as a solution to our problems is to be a "long hair." And it is not yet popular to be "long-haired" in religion. Indeed, it is really not yet universally popular to be religious.

Thus, as Harry Overstreet points out in "The Great Enterprise:" *"The meaning of God in our culture still remains the most obscure and ambiguous of all meanings. Hence, religion continues to be many things to many men. But at least two contrasted meanings can now be clearly seen; God as Arbitrary Power; God as source of Truth. The immature person clings to the former and shapes religions of strict obedience and magic bounty; the mature person relates himself to the latter and shapes religions that draw inspiration for active living out of the everlasting source of truth. The former creates the image of an unreachable God; the latter of a God that invites us to move up as far as we possibly can to the level of His insight and understanding. The former creates religions of fear; the latter, love. For where God is conceived as the source of truth, men are encouraged to exhibit, in all their relationships, the love of Truth."*

Notwithstanding the ambiguity of the meanings of God in our culture, it appears that a grave need today is for a few "long hairs" in religion—sincere devotees who will not be guilty of deprivation of the people through lust for leadership or through want of knowledge and understanding.

In his monumental *Study of History*, Professor Arnold J. Toynbee calls these persons the "creative minority," who see Christianity as the "climax of a continuous upward movement of spiritual progress."

Black Dispatch P. 2

However, the role of the "creative minority" is not only to voice an awareness of the emergence of a new spiritual species, to herald the progressive revelations, and to participate in a "blending of all the higher religions."

There are many persons living today who have not joined in the search for the meaning of existence—men and women who are excitedly pursuing happiness, but are more madly fleeing from themselves than approaching their goal.

Another role of the "creative minority" in the world today is to give meaning and direction to this mad pursuit in which men seek answers to their problems every where except where they should expect to find them.

Men look for answers in the realm of science, find them, and accept them as true and valid, thus achieving a world unified and made smaller by progress in communications and transportation.

Man looks for answers in the spiritual realm, seeks to know why he is here, how he can achieve oneness with God, peace in the world, and comes up with the tragedy of separatism and the fallacy of race. Yet anthropologists have proven that "there are no racial differences in the brain, heart, blood or nervous system," "that all men belong to the same species, the human species" . . . that "culture" is the result of innumerable interacting factors, including geography, contacts with other people, historical events, economic conditions, etc., and is therefore an historical and social product. Culture cannot be correlated with race, and there is also abundant evidence to show that members of any racial group can take on the culture of any other race

NAACP Asks Clarification of FBI Policy In Kidnap Cases

State Press

The NAACP has asked the FBI to clarify its policy on kidnap cases, in an effort to discover why the Federal body entered a Kidnap case in New York this week after having asserted that it could not enter the August kidnap case of Emmett Till in Mississippi. Fri. 11-11-55

In a telegram on November 2 to Attorney General Herbert Brownell, NAACP Executive Secretary Roy Wilkins pointed out that FBI action in the Till kidnapping "might have assisted in recovering the evidence which subsequently apparently evaded local officials, thus torpedoing due process while seeming to satisfy same."

It was reported in New York newspapers that the FBI had entered the search for Stephen Damman, age three, missing in East Meadow, Nassau county, N. Y., because of suspicion of kidnapping. Later, it was reported in the press that the FBI in New York said it had not "actively" entered the case, although it was admitted that an FBI agent had been assigned to work with the Nassau police.

The NAACP message noted that 14-year-old Emmett Till "was kidnapped at gun point before several witnesses."

"His body was not discovered until three days later, yet during all that time the FBI did not make a move on presumption of kidnapping," the telegram recalled.

The NAACP, Mr. Wilkins said, "would like to inquire specifically why the FBI entered the Damman case in New York one day after disappearance of the boy and failed to enter the Till case in Mississippi although three days had passed since Till was known to have been kidnapped by armed men."

The Association's message also commented that Stephen Damman's father is an air force clerk at Mitchell field, while Emmett Till's mother is an air force clerk in Chicago.

Justice In Sumner

By Dan Wakefield

The views expressed in this column do not necessarily express the editorial opinion of the Louisiana Weekly.

LAND OF THE FREE . . .

Sumner, Mississippi

The crowds are gone and this Delta town is back to its silent, solid life that is based on cotton and the proposition that a whole race of men was created to pick it. Citizens who drink from the "Whites Only" fountain in the courthouse breathe much easier now that the two fair-skinned half brothers, ages twenty-four and thirty-six, have been acquitted of the murder of a fourteen-year-old Negro boy. The streets are quiet, Chicago is once more a mythical name, and everyone here "knows his place."

When the people first heard that there was national, even worldwide publicity coming to Sumner and the murder trial they wondered why the incident had caused such a stir. At the lunch recess on the first day of the trial a county health-office worker who had stopped by to watch the excitement asked a visiting reporter where he was from, and shook his head when the answer was New York City.

"New York, Chicago, everywhere," he said. "I never heard of making such a mountain out of a molehill."

The feeling that it all was a plot against the South was the most accepted explanation, and when Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam ambled into court September 19 they were armed not only with their wives, baby boys, and cigars, but the challenge of Delta whites to the interference of the outside world. The issue for the local public was not that a visiting Negro boy named Emmett Louis Till had been dragged from his bed and identified later as a body that was pulled from the Tallahatchie River with a seventy-pound cotton-gin fan tied around its neck with barbed wire—that issue was lost when people learned that the world was clamoring to have something done about it. The question of "nigger-killing" was coupled with the threat to the racial traditions of the South, and storekeepers set out jars on their counters for contributions to aid the defense of the accused murderers.

Donations to the fund disqualified several prospective jurors, as prosecutors Gerald Chatham, district attorney, and Robert B. Smith, special assistant attorney general appointed to the case, probed carefully at every candidate for a day and a half before accepting the jury. Judge Curtis Swango, a tall, quietly commanding man, combined order with a maximum of freedom in the court, and when he had Cokes brought in for the jury it seemed as appropriate courtroom procedure as pounding the gavel.

While the jury selections went on inside, the crowds outside the building grew—and were automatically segregated. Aging, shaggy-cheeked Anglo-Saxons with crumpled straw hats lined a long wooden bench. Negroes gathered across the way at the base of the Confederate statue inscribed to "the cause that never failed." The Negro numbers increased, but not with the Negroes of Sumner. A red-necked deputy whose pearl-handled pistol showed beneath the tail of his sportshirt explained that the "dressed-up" Negroes were strangers. "Ninety-five per cent of them's not ours," he said. "Ours is out picking cotton and tending to their own business."

Moses Wright, a Negro locally known as a good man who tends to his business, was the state's first witness. He pressed his back against the witness chair and spoke out loud and clear as he told about the night two white men came to his house and asked for "the boy from Chicago—the one that did the talking at Money"; and how the big, balding man came in with a pistol and a flashlight and left with Emmett Till. Most fumbled several times under cross-examination but he never lost his straightforward attitude or lowered his head. He still of course was "old man Mose" and "Uncle Mose" to both defense and prosecution, but none of that detracted from the dignity of how he told his story.

The rest of the week he was seen around the courthouse lawn with his pink-banded hat tilted back on his head, his blue pants pulled up high on a clean white shirt by yellow-and-brown suspenders. He walked through the Negro section of the lawn with his hands in his pockets and his chin held up with the air of a man who has done what there was to do and could never be touched by doubt that he should have done anything less than that.

When Mose's Wright's niece, Mrs. Mamie Bradley, took the stand it was obvious as soon as she answered a question that she didn't fit the minstrel-show stereotype that most of Mississippi's white folks cherish. Nevertheless, the lawyers of both sides were careful to always address her as "Mamie," which was probably wise for the favor of the jury, since a Clarksdale, Mississippi, radio station referred to her as "Mrs. Bradley" on a news broadcast and spent the next hour answering calls of protest.

J. J. "Si" Breland, dean of the defense attorneys, questioned her while he remained in his seat, occasionally slicing his hands through the air in the quick, rigid motions he moved with throughout the trial. She answered intelligently, steadily, slightly turning her head to one side as she listened to questions, replying with a slow, distinct emphasis. "Beyond the shadow of a doubt," she said, "that was my boy's body."

At lunchtime recess the crowds around the soft-drink and sandwich concessions debated her identification of her son, and many were relieved in the afternoon session when Tallahatchie County Sheriff H. C. Strider squeezed his 270 pounds in the witness chair and said the only thing he could tell about the body that had come from the river was that it was human.

Sheriff Strider, who owns 1,500 acres of cotton land, farms it with thirty-five Negro families, has the grocery store and filling station on it, and operates a cotton-dusting concern with three airplanes, is split in his commitments in a way that might qualify him as the Charles E. Wilson of Tallahatchie County. What's good for his feudal plantation is good for the county, and his dual role as law-enforcement officer and witness for the defense evidently didn't seem contradictory to him. His commitments were clear enough that prosecution lawyers once sent two state policemen to search a county jail for one Leroy "Too-Tight" Collins, a key witness for the prosecution who was missing (and never found).

There were still missing witnesses, dark, whispered rumors of fleeing men who saw the crime committed, when Gerald Chatham tugged the sleeves of his shirt and walked over to the Jury Friday morning to make the summation of the case for the prosecution. Both he and Smith, who is a former F. B. I. man, had followed every lead and sent state policemen driving through the countryside in search of the Mississippi witnesses, but only two of the four who were named—Willie Reed and Mandy Bradley — were found. The time had come for Chatham to work with what he had.

In a matter of minutes from the time he started talking the atmosphere of the court was charged with tension as he raised his arm toward the ceiling and shouted that "the first words offered in testimony here were dripping with the blood of Emmett Till." The green plaster walls of the room had grown darker from the clouds of the rain that was coming outside, as Chatham went on with the tones, the gestures, the conviction of an evangelist, asserting that "the guilty flee where no man pursueth," and retelling the story of the body's abduction in the dark of night.

J. W. Milam, the bald, strapping man who leaned forward in his seat during most of the sessions with his mouth twisted in the start of a smile, was looking at a newspaper.

Roy Bryant lit a cigar. With his eyebrows raised and his head tilted back he might have been a star college fullback smoking in front of the coach during season and asking with his eyes "So what?"

When Chatham was finished, C. Sidney Carlton, the able attorney for the defense whose large, fleshy face was usually close to where the cameras were clicking, poured a paper cup of water from the green pitcher on the judge's desk and opened his summation. He spoke well, as usual, but after Chatham's oratory he was doomed to anti-climax. There had been a brief rain and the sun was out with more heat than ever. Defense attorney J. W. Kellum, speaking briefly after Carlton before the noon recess, had the odds of discomfort against his chances of stirring the jury, but he did his best with the warning that the jurors' forefathers would turn in their graves at a guilty verdict. And then he asked what was undoubtedly the question of the week. If Roy and J. W. are convicted of murder, he said, "where under the shining sun is the land of the free and the home of the brave?"

The question was a fitting prelude to the harangue of John Whitten, the defense's last speaker. The clean-shaven, pale young man in a neatly pressed suit and white shirt that defied perspiration announced his faith that "every last Anglo-Saxon one of you men in this jury has the courage to set these men free."

Mr. Whitten went on to declare he had an answer for the state's most convincing evidence—the ring of Emmett Till was found on the body discovered in the Tallahatchie River. The body really

n't Emmett Till, Whitten said, nd the ring might have possibly een planted on it by the agents f a sinister group that is trying o destroy the social order of the South and "widen the gap which as appeared between the white nd colored people in the United States."

He didn't name any group, but he fondly nurtured local rumor hat the whole Till affair was a plot on the part of the N. A. A. C. P. made naming unnecessary.

It took the twelve jurors an hour and seven minutes to return the verdict that would evidently help close the gap between the white and colored races in the land of the free and the home of the brave. Tradition, honor, God, and country were preserved in a package deal with the lives of Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam.

Reporters climbed tables and chairs to get a glimpse of the acquitted defendants, and the newspaper, magazine, and television cameras were aimed at the smiles of their wives and families in a flashing, buzzing finale. Then the agents of the outside world disappeared in a rush to make their deadlines and the stale, cluttered courtroom was finally empty of everything but mashed-out cigarettes, crushed paper cups, and a few of the canvas spectator chairs that the American Legion had sold across the street for two dollars each.

The trial week won't be forgotten here soon, and glimpses of the "foreign" Negroes who don't till cotton fields but hold positions as lawyers, doctors and Congressmen have surely left a deep and uncomfortable mark on the whites of the Delta. But at least for the present, life is good again. Funds are being raised for separate-and-equal school facilities in Tallahatchie County and on Wednesday at lunchtime four of the five defense attorneys join with the other Rotarians of Sumner in a club song about the glad day "When men are one."

Dan Wakefield is a free-lance writer who was assigned by The Nation to cover the Sumner trial.

Don't Let Lynching Go Underground

World

At the outset of this war on lynching those, probably fine meaning people who wanted to feel that lynching had disappeared from the face of the earth, contended that the Till murder was not a lynching. There also were those who took issue in such a discussion as when a lynching is not a lynching. In spite of all this the little Till boy had died an inglorius death and was just as dead as from any cause.

Fri. 10-14-55

The trial of the accused persons for this ugly crime and their subsequent release brought down many criticisms of the conduct and final outcome of the trial. Some went so far as to allow that the law was lynched. In the face of glaring evidence in which the ring Till wore with his late father's initial theron, and his own mother's firm identity of her son, the verdict brought in showed the doubt of the jury in being convinced that the long chain of circumstantial evidence did not place Bryant and Milan on the scene of the murder nor as the ones who conspired and murdered young Till,, notwithstanding the fact that they were the last ones seen with him alvie and their own admission that they took him from the farmhouse on that ill fated night in Mississippi.

In the old days lynching took on those horrid scenes of ancient human hangings in which the young men turned out with their elders to get at first sight a picture of the early pattern of reprisal that was initiated for the terror of the freed men. In that the lynched victim was allowed to hang to his tree, shot full of holes for that inerasible lesson to his coming generations.

Birmingham, Ala.

The patent verdicts ran: "This person came to his death at the hand or hands of a person or persons unknown to this jury." That was the usual end which closed the chapter of the murder.

Then lynching as such became a running sore to the chagrin and embarrassment of the community involved. With appeal after appeal for the federal government to take jurisdiction in lynching cases, there was seen a tendency of carrying it on in more of a private manner. In that we saw in the case of Mallard, that victim who met his death at Lyons Georgia while riding with his wife in a new automobile and those two couples lynched by "private parties" near Monroe a more appropriate form of murder which might not technically qualify as lynchings.

We come to the Emmett Till case, still current in Mississippi, which was enacted so skillfully as to bring on a press dispute as to whether it were really a lynching!

When such a temperment in its contagion fixes its eyes on the temple of justice itself, there is no wonder in a case of outright wilful murder, a jury would in the face of open guilt, recommend mercy in order to detou rthe culprit from the supreme penalty when a racial question is involved.

Those who have fought on this battle front in a challenge of the lynch spirit and its practice should take notice of these new forms in which the lynchings occur. To meet this issue federal laws must be passed to give federal jurisidiction over racial crimes.

EDITORIAL OF THE WEEK

(The following editorial was published in the New York Post)

State Press Fri. 10-14-55 NPS

Who Sends The FBI Where?

Little Rock Ark

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has addressed an important and explosive question to Attorney General Brownell. The question involves the fate of two children; it also involves the issue of equal justice.

The inquiry arises out of the strange contrast between the FBI's prompt intervention in the feared kidnaping of 3-year-old Stephen Damman, at East Meadow, L. I., and its total failure to act in the Mississippi kidnaping of a 14-year-old Negro Emmett Louis Till.

On August 28 young Till disappeared while visiting relatives at Money, Miss. Members of his family immediately charged he had been kidnaped by three white men.

For more than three days Till was listed as missing. But the FBI never entered the case.

State Press P. 4

On August 31 the mutilated body of Emmett Till was found floating in the Tallahatchie River.

Things have been different so far on Long Island. We pray there will be a happier ending.

Within 24 hours after the Damman child vanished, the FBI was on the scene to aid frustrated local officials in the search for the missing child.

The NAACP's question remains unanswered:

Why was the FBI present on Long Island and absent during the three crucial days in Mississippi? Till's life might not have been saved; but the FBI might have amassed irrefutable evidence against the killers.

Technically, the justification for FBI entrance into a kidnaping case is the supposition that the victim has been transported

Till Time Finishes The Till Case

Every door-post in the nation is sprinkled with the blood of Emmett Till, that ill-fated lad who allegedly "wolf-whistled" up a breeze whose chilly listings will doubtless blow the world good.

It takes careful screening eyes to find the bright side in that terrible enactment of brute passion and unnatural tyranny that marred a child on from its mother's breast in the brutal fashion portrayed in the gruesome picture of Emmett Till going the rounds of the current press.

The story of lynching in the southland is as old as Negro freedom itself. It was one of those reprisals that refused to settle in the sinking dregs of a lost war and a lost cause. Hence, there were those, who were formerly guarded with the utmost care and keeping while held in pawn, to be thrust into the maelstrom of searing hatred when placed in the procession of honorable citizenship.

So came the days of Emmett Till. These were days that had seen the terror of rope and fagot across the long lean years of Negro citizenship and rugged endeavor. They saw the John Downers of another era framed and persecuted, the poor chattels "on the William's farm, beaten and buried; the two couples near Monroe massacred in the broad light of day — each to end with the titled inscription: 'This person came to his death and the hands of persons unknown to this jury."

But Emmett's death was so gruesome, so excuseless and exacted at such a low price that the world rises up in revolt of the systems tolerated through the years and sanctioned with silence in their sordid and defiant processions through the corridors of a free world.

No wonder this incident made headlines in nearly every language and tongue on earth and also saw service in some foreign elections.

There is such a stir all around the globe, one is led to wonder just how much can this nation under God stand in the form of unrestricted violence, strutting the goosestep across the breast of the South, while it spends millions for order abroad, exhorting its adversaries from the lintels of the sermon on the Mount.

Till time shall finish the Till case, will we wait on the Lord?

Unheard Witnesses

(This guest elitorial was written by Dr. Jesse Nathan, publisher of the Valley Jewish News of California, on the Emmett Till kidnap-lynching case of Mississippi.)

By DR. JESSE NATHAN

EMMETT TILL: "Please, Mister White Man . . . let me go, I didn't do anything wrong . . . Lord help me, I can't stand it . . . Mama . . . Mama . . . Me . . .

THE ROPE: "He was a frightened kid . . . not more than fourteen or so . . . I'll never forget the look of terror in his eyes when they used me to tie him up."

THE FISTS: "Gee he was soft . . . just a kid . . . we really cut him to ribbons . . . if the rope hadn't held him he sure would have run."

THE EARTH: "He tried to hold fast to me . . . seemed to act as though he wanted to hide within me . . . first time he fell he just lay close to me whimpering in terror."

THE NIGHT: "I am used to this . . . people are always using my darknes to hide their evil deeds . . . but he was just a kid, oh well . . . "

THE WIND: "I cooled his hot and fevered body with my cool air but he didn't seem to notice it . . . he was so young."

THE STRAP: "The fists weren't so hot . . . sure they cut him to pieces . . . but you should have seen what I did to him . . . really fixed him."

THE LAMP: "I was the only light in a dark barn . . . he kept looking at me until his eyes closed . . . must have thought I was a God or something."

THE MOON: "I saw them drag his still and mulilated body to the river . . . then there was a flash of flame and a hole appeared in his head."

THE RIVER: "Why do men seek me out to drown their evil deeds? . . . I wasn't created for that purpose . . . my waters licked his wounds and cooled them but he couldn't feel them . . . I hope he knows that I was just trying to heal his pain . . . just a kid."

THE GUN: "I am small . . . you can hide me in a pocket of your coat . . . but I packed the biggest wallop of them all . . . bang and that was it."

THE LAW: "I am on trial in every case as well as the cause before it . . . I SAY IT WAS MURDER."

On The Wrong Scent

The Jackson (Miss.) Daily News, which cheered the Sumner jury for acquitting the two kidnapers of 14-year-old Emmett Louis Till, is still fretting about the case which shocked and revolted the civilized world.

Grasping at any diversionary straw, the News has dug deep and come up with some background information on Till's father.

In a copyrighted story, the newspaper hai's as an expose its discovery that Pvt. Louis Till, died not the death of a war hero, but was hanged by the Army in Italy for "rape and murder."

The publication's inference is that this fact somehow explains, justifies and absolves Mississippi for the foul manner in which it dealt with his son nine years later.

The inference is as dastardly as the deed.

..

If the News is really interested in getting Mississippi off the hook of worldwide censure, it certainly sent its bloodhounds off on the wrong scent.

If it is so positive the weighted body fished from the Tallahatchie River was not Till's, why has there been no further attempt to identify it?

And why did all efforts to find the missing Till suddenly cease with the discovery of the body in the river?

Until these questions are answered Mississippi will continue to stand indicted before the world as a backward and lawless area where justice is dispensed not on the usual basis of truth and evidence, but on the artificial premise of the color of the victim's skin.

Notes On The Till Case

Too hot to handle? That was the question Mrs. Mamie Bradley asked after she tried to get an audience at the White House last week. Max Rabb, the genial greeter who has been described as the "Chief-Picker-up-of-Pieces" around the White House, found his calendar too crowded to see her.

Mamie, who is really learning fast the ways of public oficials, said she would be back to Washington again with her "little problem."

People were talking about the influence of Elder Smallwood Williams and the progressive fight he has led in Washington on the civic front. It took him only a week to mobilize the Washington rally in the Till case.

Roy Bryant's store in Money, the setting for the infamous, "whistle crime" has been closed. The Negroes who were his chief patrons want no part of it.

John Milam in a sadistic frenzy on the same day of the Till lynching, knocked one of young Emmett's companions to the floor and tried to stomp him.

Now that the smear campaign is on, it should be remembered that Louis Till was court martialed and hanged under a Jim-Crow Army and that battlefield court martials were under heavy fire from the NAACP for improperly prepared and flimsy evidence.

The whisper out of the Delta last week now that tongues are loosening is the story of U. S. Senator Eastland of Mississippi whose father is said to have burned two Negroes alive.

8925

The Case Of Emmett Till

(From The Christian Science Monitor)

Emmett Till was a 14-year-old Negro boy whose home was in Chicago. Recently he visited an uncle in a Mississippi village. He made a small purchase at a local store from the wife of the storekeeper (white people). As he left he gave what has been described as a "wolf whistle." After midnight that night two men strode into the uncle's home, asked for that "Chicago boy," and took him away in a car. A few days later a body identified as that of young Till was found in a nearby river.

The Governor of Mississippi ordered an immediate and complete inquiry and prosecution. And a local grand jury has now indicted on c harges of kidnaping and murder the husband of the young woman at the store and his half-brother. These two have admitted taking the boy from his uncle's home, but deny they killed him.

The story impels two observations: The first as to the highly charged atmosphere in the Deep South which made such an incident possible; the second as to the growing sense of equal justice which has evoked the official and unofficial reaction to it.

Non-Southerners must understand that any act of undue familiarity by a Negro toward a white woman has always been deemed very serious. But that one should lead to what may be counted among the first lynching since 1951 must be blamed on feelings heightened by the agitation following the Supreme Court's antisegregation decision.

Organized society in Mississippi has thus far done the right things in this case. And the rest of the nation will willingly give credit. It is to be hoped that a sobered public opinion will insist the wheels of justice now set in motion follow through to a conclusion and under due process of law.

Indictment In Mississippi

From The New York Times

Mississippi has a larger Negro population, according to the latest census, than any other state in the Union. The fact makes the state a particularly important testing ground in race relations. If there can be progress in those relations toward greater justice and greater democracy in Mississippi, then we can feel grateful.

On Sunday, August 28, a 14-year-old boy named Emmett Till was kidnapped after an incident at the little town of Money, near Greenwood, in which he had allegadly whistled at a white woman. Three days later his body was found in the Tallahatchie River. Yesterday a grand jury indicted two white men on charge of murder and kidnapping in connection with young Till's death. The men deny the crime and the trial, of course, is still to come.

The fact remains that the Tallahatchie County grand jury, made up of white men, took this step against other white men for a crime against a Negro. Over a long term of years Mississippi stood at the head of the shameful list of the states in which lynchings had occurred. There are few or no lynchings now in any state in an ordinary year. The prompt action of the grand jury in the Till case indicates that the people of contemporary Mississippi are against this form of murder as against other forms of murder.

Lynching or Slaying The Boy Is Dead

From the Des Moines Register

THE question has been raised as to whether the death of Emmett Louis Till, 15-year-old Chicago Negro who was slain in Mississippi for whistling at a white woman, should be classified as a lynching.

The governor of Mississippi says that the boy was the victim of a "straightout murder." The executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People says that he was lynched. Which is right? The answer lies in how lynching is defined — but the definitions are not, admittedly, very precise.

It does seem clear that the boy was, at least, killed in the lynch spirit. He was slain because he had committed an act of indiscretion that ran counter to Mississippi ways of life which have almost the sanction of law. Had he been white, he could have done the same thing with impunity, or at least he most certainly would not have paid for it with his life.

One characteristic of lynching is that it is punishment outside established channels of justice. There is no question but that the death qualified as a lynching in this one respect.

However, lynchings are most often associated with mob action. In this case apparently two men and a woman were the only ones directly involved. The boy's death was a slaying rather than a lynching, if the physical presence of a mob is an essential part of the definition of a lynching.

Some authoritative sources say that lynching in its modern form need not be perpetrated by a mob. The Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences defines lynching as "a vengeful torture and execution of individuals without trial and regardless of the existence of regular courts of law. In a broader sense lynch law is sometimes employed with reference to any form of extralegal action for inflicting corporal punishment."

A well-known sociology text (Race Relations by Dr. Brewton Berry) first defines lynching as 'execution by a mob without trial . . . of an individual who is suspected, convicted or accused of a violation of laws or mores." But Berry goes on to say that there are those who feel that "lynching has been driven underground and that certain substitutes have arisen to take its place." Among these, he lists "murder by small quiet groups rather than by noisy mobs."

Lynching originally was associated with the frontier where there were no established courts of law. Then, in Reconstruction days the Negro or his defender came increasingly to be the victim and the South the site for most lynchings.

Statistics on lynching have been kept since 1882 and in that period there have been roughly 5,000 lynchings. Ninety per cent of these have occurred in the South and 95 per cent of the victims have been Negroes. Since 1882, Iowa has been the scene of 19 lynchings. Mississippi leads the states during the same period with 574. The Tuskegee Institute in Alabama stopped its annual tabulation of lynchings in 1954 because there had been none to tabulate since 1951.

White Supremacy Wins Again

With the jury acquittal of John Milam and Roy Bryant in Sumner, Mississippi, charged with the murder of 14-year-old Emmett Louis Till, the doctrine of white supremacy scores another victory. But what a ghastly victory, and at what a disgraceful price!

The jury, composed of nine cotton farmers, a carpenter, an insurance man and a dragline operator, was all-white. The jury was all-white because there are no Negro registered voters in Tallahatchie County, Mississippi. There are no Negro voters because Lamar Smith, murdered in Brookhaven, Mississippi, a few weeks ago for daring to become a registered voter and active politically is a glaring example of what happens to Negro voters in Mississippi.

The jury stated that it was not convinced that the body taken from the Tallahatchie River was that of Emmett Louis Till. The body bore the dead boy's ring. A sheriff had signed the death certificate. A heartbroken mother had identified the battered, bullet-pierced corpse as that of her son.

Witnesses had testified that the boy was last seen in the company of Milam and Bryant. A sheriff testified that Milam and Bryant had admitted going to the home of Till's great-uncle to "get the little Negro boy" and taking him from the Wright home.

But the jury was not sure. Perhaps they were influenced by earlier charges that the mutilated body had been placed in the river by "agitators" wishing to embarrass the South. Or perhaps they were convinced, as was one of the defense attorneys, that their forefathers would "turn over in their graves if they convicted the defendants." It would seem that they were only sure that a white man should not be con-

victed of murder in Mississippi when his victim is a Negro.

The extent of the jury's feeling for the entire case could well be summed up in the remark made by J. A. Shaw, Jr., its foreman, when he said of the testimony of the dead boy's mother, "If she had tried a little harder she might have got out a tear."

The trial is concluded. The evidence has been presented in what seemed an honest effort on the part of the prosecuting attorney to secure a conviction. But a chill must come over decent, reasonable people when they realize that in Mississippi human life can be taken without punishment, no matter how trivial the reason.

The acquittal of the defendants does not answer a great many questions: If the body was not that of Till, where is he now? Whose body was it? Who are the murderers of the person identified as Till? How did Till's ring come to be on the hand of the corpse? How did a sheriff certify to the death of a man whom he had not positively identified? Why would a mother concede the death of her son if she were at all uncertain?

If Bryant and Milam admitted taking Till from his home, what did they do with him? What did they do to him? If they were convinced that a wife had been annoyed, why did they decide to take the law into their own hands instead of calling an officer and filing charges? If "agitators" keep a handy supply of corpses on hand to be dumped into the river when convenient, who are these agitators and why aren't they apprehended?

The jury may take comfort that their forefathers will rest peacefully in their graves. But there will be no rest in the tombs of men who, through the ages, have dedicated their lives to the dream that all men are endowed with "certain unalienable rights" including life and liberty. There will be no ease in the minds of men who recognize that hate, inhumanity and indifference to the rights of any American will blast to bits our hopes of living in a decent, self-respecting society.

The "Not Guilty" Verdict Brings New Members to NAACP

State Press pp
Little Rock, Ark.
Fri. 9-30-55

The kidnap-lynching of 14-year-old Emmett Louis Till in Mississippi last month and the subsequent "not guilty" verdict by an all-white jury for the men charged with the crime brought a deluge of telephone calls and letters into [illegible] headquarters from persons of both races who [illegible] prompted to act by the horror of the anti-Negro [illegible] an NAACP spokesman said this week.

Most of the persons have contributed to the Association and many have become NAACP members for the first time. Others have renewed expired memberships.

The Association is not involved in court action in connection with the case inasmuch as the responsibility for securing justice in this trial rested with the state of Mississippi. However, funds received will be used to step up the NAACP campaign to end the "reign of terror" in that state and to bring full citizenship rights to Negro citizens there and elsewhere in the country.

SOME COMMENTS ON THE TILL CASE

(From Atlanta Journal)

". . . Out of the maze of confusion, one thing is clear. Whoever killed Till not only committed a heinous crime against him and the state of Mississippi; they also offended against all the good people of the South who in the minds of many people elsewhere, will be associated with the murderers.

"The American public has watched the Till case closely, and it is now wondering anew about the South and its claims that race relations in this section have improved . . ."

* * * * *

(From Washington Post)

". . . To many persons who read the report of the trial, it will seem that the prosecution more than proved its murder case against the two white men who admittedly kidnaped the 14-year-old Negro boy after he allegedly whistled at a white woman. The "not guilty" verdict thus is a rude shock . . . The racial overtones in the case and the indignation over the outside criticism make it all the more important for responsible citizens to reexamine the conduct of the trial, including possible intimidation of the witnesses."

* * * * *

(From The Arkansas Gazette)

". . . It appears from this distance that official Mississippi did all it could to provide a fair trial.

"One question, then, is whether in the prevailing emotional climate any white jury in Mississippi would convict white defendants in a racial case involving similar circumstances.

"A question of equal weight is whether the general public outside of Mississippi would ever accept an acquittal as anything but a whitewash even though the prosecution after conscientious effort, failed to prove its case.

"The terrible truth, we suspect, is that the public on both sides had rendered its verdict before the evidence was heard."

* * * * *

State Press pp 4

(From The New York Times news story)

". . . Because of the race relations factors involved in this case, it was widely predicted that a verdict carrying either a death or life imprisonment sentence was most unlikely to be returned by the jury. This was regarded by many as the major factor underlying the jury's action."

* * * * *

(From The Commercial Appeal)

"L'Aurore, a non-Communist Center Party organs says, 'The two . . . have been acquitted, . . . Acquitted to the enthusiastic cries of a racialist public by a racialist jury.'"

AFTERMATH-

State Press pp 1

Roy Bryant and John W. Milam at press time were in jail at Greenwood, Mississippi where their attorneys had made unsuccessful attempts to get them out on bail. It is expected that they will be charged with kidnaping and prosecuted in Leflore county when the jury meets November 7.

*

Little Rock, Ark

Mose Wright, uncle of slain Emmett Till, has accepted a job with a white nursery at Albany, New York.

*

Fri. 9-30-55

Willie Reed, 18-year-old who claimed he saw Milam near a barn from which moans and licks issued, has gone to Chicago. He is supposed to be "safer" there.

* * * *

Mrs. Bradley, mother of Till, is reported as saying she believes important witnesses were held in the Charleston (Mississippi) jail to prevent them from testifying.

* * * *

Charles C. Diggs, Negro Congressman from Michigan, is reported to have said he was impressed with the fairness of Judge Curtis Swango and the prosecution's presentation of the case.

*

State Press pp 4

William Henry Huff, NAACP lawyer at Chicago, says he will sue Roy Bryant, J. W. Milam, and Mrs. Roy Bryant for $100,000 each in the U. S. District Court in Mississippi. Basis of the suit is damage done by the kidnap murder.

* * * * *

George W. Hinant, jr., of St. Louis, former Memphian, is reported to have sent a torn-up Confederate flag to the Commercial Appeal with a letter saying in part, "Today I read of the 'not guilty' verdict of the trial in Sumner, and I am ashamed of the South."

Little Mo: How Low? Comments On The Horror In Mississippi

Editor, Journal and Guide:

If — we cannot see "The Hand Writing on the Wall";

If—we have not learned that "Chickens do come home to roost";

If — we are unconcerned about "Righting wrongs";

Then—we had best demolish the schools, abandon the fireside, scrap our religious institutions, return to the days of cave existence, and take lessons from the beasts and the buzzards.

What can be more abhorrent than this recent exhibition of Reptilian Stench, Slime & Horror, Inc., in Mississippi?

We wage a war (purportedly) against Communism, chanting from one corner of our mouth: "Commie, stay way from my door," while from the opposite corner—same mouth — we basso: "Come on in, fellers, the water's fine!"

If every white man in Mississippi who had wolf-whistled" at a girl or woman of color were killed, the population would be considerably diminished. The eyes of the world are upon America ("Sweet Land of Liberty"), and three-fourths of those eyes are the eyes of those whose skins are of darker color.

We stand on corners shaking salt boxes, juggling soap mugs, flipping frying pans and what-have-you, appealing for protection and care for those even unto the uttermost parts of the earth; we dare even send missionaries abroad; we draw our robes smugly about us and do so: "Lord, we thank Thee that we are not as other men"—and yet occurrences like this are met with a SUDDEN and LOUD SILENCE.

The Great Almighty, despite His tolerance and beneficence, may well ponder: "How long will you continue to abuse my patience? To what end will that brazen audacity of yours display itself?"

A-down the years an echo arises—the prophecy of an enforced people in bondaged servitude:

"My Lord's gonna' move this wicked world,
He's gonna' raise up a nation that will obey."

While no suggestions we make to the Lord:

'So let it be!"

'So let it be!"

To Mississippi — we commend you to:

"Vengeance is mine—I will repay."

"Inasmuch as ye do it unto one of the least of these, ye do it unto me."

" . . . visiting the iniquities of the fathers upon the children of the third and fourth generation."

And, may God have mercy on your soul!

—MED BRIDGEFORTH
Princeton, N. J.

8927

Mississippi's Latest Crime: Result Of Crime Conditioning

Journal & Guide

MISSISSIPPI can attribute a large part of the blame for the world-wide notoriety the State received after the horrible murder of EMMITT LOUIS TILL, to *The Association of Citizens Councils of Mississippi*, and to Circuit JUDGE TOM P. BRADY, who presides over the fourteenth circuit court district.

Sat. 9-10-55

JUDGE BRADY made an address at Indianola, to the *Citizens' Council* of that town, and to hundreds of their friends gathered to hear him. The subject of the address was "Black Monday," the judge's designation of the day (May 17) on which the United States Supreme Court handed down its unanimous decision in the school segregation cases.

P.10

Under the imprint of the *Citizens Councils* several hundred thousand copies of this speech, in pamphlet form, were distributed in Mississippi and adjoining States. Quite a number of them found their way into Virginia.

The speech was a diatribe, of pseudo history, anthropology, and sociology, loosely used to *prove* what GOD's intentions were when He created man. It was inflammatory, as may be gathered from the following excerpts:

1620—that's when the seed was planted on the shores of the Atlantic at Jamestown. That seed has now grown into a tree and is bearing fruit today. Of course they (the slaves) were considered a little better than a good saddle-horse—we know it—a little under, perhaps, a good hunting dog. . . . They were abysmal savages. Just a few months before, (they were brought from Africa) they had sharpened their teeth with rocks so they could more easily tear human flesh; they were cannibals.

In the Civil War, yes—they were the instigating cause of that; from 1860-1864, the South fought, bled and died for a cause. A cause that was lost.

Norfolk Va.

There was organized in 1936 in New York City, an organization known as the National Association for Advancement of Colored People. (Editor's Note—The NAACP was chartered in New York in 1915.)

If God in His infinite wisdom had wanted a mongrelized, mixed man, that man would have been on this earth.

(Editor's note—There are more mixed men in Mississippi than in any other State in the South. More white blood per 1,000 people, runs through the veins of Negroes of Mississippi than is true of any other part of the world.)

Yes, the speaker is a presiding judge in Mississippi.

Somehow we feel that even the Mississippi *Citizens' Council* will get sick of the mess they have stirred up. Few human beings can stand to have the blood of other humans, even those they hate, dripping from their hands for the rest of their lives.

First, a colored minister was slain because he refused to go to the registrar's office and ask that his name be removed from the voting list. Then a second minister was slain because he was a member of the NAACP. Next a farmer was slain because he was *suspect*.

And now, a 14-year-old child is taken from his uncle's home, where he was visiting, and murdered in as ghastly a manner as anything that has occurred in Southern criminal history. And as usual, when there is a similar crime committed against Negroes, the law moves with leaden feet. The latest news from Mississippi is that the men who murdered the 14-year-old boy *will be tried at the March (seven months hence) term of court!* And, as usual, they will be found *not guilty!*

And these things are done to assert white supremacy.

A Lynching Definitely Established

In an unprecedented coverage of a murder trial, involving the alleged "wolf-whistling" lynch-murder of Emmett Till, while the Chicago lad was on a visit to his uncle, Moses Wright in LeFlore county Mississippi, the general public has had a look see on one of the terrible tragedies and the sordid aftermath that follow the stirring of racial passion and prejudice in a setting fraught with tension whooped up by politicians and alternated by such questions as segregation in the public schools.

It is but natural that in a setting of every manner and form of coached testimony, that such an allegation as "he embraced me in the store and made improper overtures" would come from the female of the species involved in the drama. While the jury might not have been permitted to hear such testimony, it was foregone that it had already become infected with such material in abundance gathered from other sources.

This is a patent collateral [illegible] accompanies every drama [illegible] bringing down certain condemnation [illegible] to lynch.

That trial involving LeFlore [illegible] Sunflower County [illegible] certainly was not without many of those unfortunate environs of lamented from a section having at its doorstep already two other current unsolved murders of upright and intelligent Negro leaders.

The testimony of [illegible] Reed, 16-year-old Negro student, would afford the public an opportunity to arrive at its own conclusions to the validity of the Tuskegee report that the killing of Till was a lynching. The stenographic report of his testimony read into the record plainly stated that on the morning of the kidnaping he saw a boy whom he recognized later from a photograph as Emmett Till, in the company of six men in a pickup truck driving along a country road in nearby Sunflower County; that a few minutes later he passed a red barn on the property of Leslie Milam, brother of the defendant Milam, and saw the same pickup truck parked near the barn and that he heard some licks and the shouts of "Oh, Oh," and that he saw the defendant "Milam, wearing a pistol, walk from the barn to a nearby well for a drink of water."

While from any angle, Till would be just as dead, the implication of other men in the pickup truck, which Judge Swingo ruled to go into the record, would place the Tuskegee reports on firm ground upon which it scored the killing of Till as a lynching.

TRADEGIES OFTEN BRING BLESSINGS

Bystander

Thurs. 9-22-55

Publicity given the kidnap slaying of Emmett Till in Mississippi, like other sensational incidents, reveal facts which the public generally did not know.

No Negroes are included in the jury panel because none are registered to vote. Negroes constitute 63.5 per cent of the population.

P.6

This situation is hard to imagine and yet the practice of excluding by intimidating Negroes from registering is common in many sections of several states. And this in spite of many US Supreme Court decisions declaring restrictive measures on voting against Negroes illegal.

Daily Worker

In recent years, some states in the South have made progress in this and other fields, but Mississippi and a few others have attempted to throw every possible block in the way of Negroes in their attempt to exercise their rights. America appears quite ridiculous fighting and quarrelling with nations about freedom of people in their country when it appears almost powerless, at times, to protect their own. For as Ray Wilkins said civil and political rights in some communities are just about what certain classes in them wish them to be.

Mississippi, Like Time, Marches On

Some day a story of Mississippi will be written. That state is too unique in its climatic setting of pioneer intolerance and those ghostly dramas enacted before its floodlights.

The big river, made famous in steam-boat epics, and delta people of man-eating ferocity preying upon the fine possibilities preferably to go to waste, to the implementing of those otherwise fine and cultural values in the genuine pattern of American democracy.

The wide cottonfields and the singing herd of dialect mimics, with head-rag and young one strapped just above the cotton-sack along the long rows will be welded into one colorful mural. There will not be the absence against this background of the sniff of bloodhounds and the squeal of black humon as the cordon of the thirsty forms a ring around his lair.

Some few days ago, some one penned a story of the early intolerance employed in the state of Mississippi. That state has just survived one of its bitterest race-baiting political campaigns. The records disclose that Negroes were barred from the polls in wholesale fashion.

The winner in the gubernatorial runover Attorney General Coleman has issued a manifesto in defiance of the authority of the attorney general of the United States.

He would contend that: "The state would immediately and vigorously resist any effort on the part of the United States to take over our state elections."

Governor Hugh White seconded the attitude of his incoming successor as well as his chairman of the state Democratic executive committee, who issued orders on election day that Negroes be barred from the polls.

Mississippi at the same time, has a lynching in her lap. With the school integration already deep in the hopper and the incoming governor, before he takes his oath to "uphold and defend the constitution of the United States," would defy the attorney general of those United States, a box was shipped from its borders to Chicago, bearing the remains of a teen-ager, allegedly kidnaped and lynched for "wolf-whistling" in the presence of a white woman.

Flight



8928

Mississippi's Shame

The State of Mississippi does not seem to realize when it acquitted two white demons last Friday of the dastardly and beastly crime of murdering a 14-year-old Chicago boy, that state in the same moment was convicted before the eyes of the world and national opinion as an unholy unit of creation where there is ruthless and wanton disregard for the First Commandment of God.

There is no need now for the denizens of the Delta country to squirm and squeal about outside interference. They had their day in court, alone and by themselves, when they callously freed Roy Bryant and his half-brother. There was no federal interference in the courtroom at Sumner. The verdict last Friday spurted directly out of the foul, putrid belly of Mississippi mores and folkways. If it stinks to high heaven there is no one to blame for this but the people who reside on the banks of the Tallahachie river.

People the world over will wonder if Emmett Till attacked Mrs. Bryant three days prior to the "wolf whistle" why she rested her cause before the bar of public opinion on this questionable whistle, rather than upon the physical attack about which the judge refused to allow the jury to hear. The woman testified that the physical attack occurred three days earlier. The world, not Mississippi we are sure, will want to know why this white woman made no outcry at the time a 14-year-old boy put his arm around her and uttered obscene words, but waited until she heard the wolf whistle to tell of former more vicious offenses upon her person.

"Outside interference" will also want to know why a mother, despite the fact she is black, did not have the right to identify her own progeny, and the ring found upon the bloated, rotting fingers of the mutilated body of her once happy child. We suspect that old slave custom that a Negro's word cannot challenge the oath of a white man formed the basis of rejection of identification, in total disregard of the facts. The sheriff of the country where the murder occurred had said he doubted ability of the prosecution to identify the body, so what did the testimony of the mother of this murdered child amount to?

"Vengeance is mine, saith the Lord." There will be Mississippians who will chortle and laugh at the discomfiture and tragic pliant of this infuriated black mother, but in this atomic age, few of these provincial savages on the banks of the muddy Tallahatchie realize that the future of the white world may hang in the balance because of the attitude of white people toward blacks on the uholy plantations of that state. Tonight in every far-away island atoll, in the deep recesses of India, China, Africa and Japan, colored people, who in the world picture represent three-fourths of the inhabitants of the globe, are talking out openly among themselves about this travesty upon justice and wanton disregard for human life. They are going to conclude out of this act that white people hate dark people, and woe to the white race if the dark world finally wrests control.

Mississippi cut its bridges behind her when she failed to qualify that jury for the death penalty and in addition raise grounds for appeal to the federal court. If the governor had had honest intentions he would have insisted that Mississippi attorneys inquire into its domestic exclusion of Negroes from jury service. This would have enabled the prosecution to appeal this vicious case to the Supreme Court of the United States. The special counsel and the county attorney in this case never at one time raised the question of Negroes not voting in the county where the murder was committed, which is a prerequisite for jury service in that state, and we suspect the kidnaping case will end in the same and identical manner.

But the nation and the world will look down upon Mississippi justice as a shameless expression of savage license, where every murderous villiany has sanction, and a vile gutter that even God Himself has abandoned.

We could not end this statement without pointing out there is no better evidence needed to convince America that we need an anti-lynching law, and there is no better justification of those who believe in civil rights to cry out for the enforcement of the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments to the constitution. Mississippi has lost its moral right to protect life, liberty and property.

Not only in Mississippi but the nation, the soul of America is to be found disclosed in the editorial columns of our newspapers. It is not enough to print the news, but the editor's attempt to find truth as the people move about daily, is one way to find out about the conscience and the virtue of a people. One way just now to find out how your daily paper feels about this shameful and disgraceful miscarriage of justice, is to search the editorial columns of newspapers to determine whether the editor of such publications condemns such acts. There should be sharp and positive demand by those who daily shape the conduct of the masses, to condemn and censure this attempt in the Southland to hide behind white women's skirts while the real purpose is to terrorize and intimidate Negroes in the exercise of their constitutional rights. The truth is we do not have government by law in Mississippi; we have government by murder and invisible authority.

An Example of Courage

Dispatch

When Mose Wright, humble Mississippi sharecropper, stood up in a courtroom in Sumner last week, pointing his finger of identification at the murderers of his nephew, he symbolized a type and character of courage that must dominate the conduct and action of all of the 16 million Negroes in the United States, if the submerged race, to which this writer belongs, salvages anything out of the startling decisions that have emanated recently from the Supreme Court of the United States. Thurs. 10-6-55 P. 10

When called upon as a witness, Mose Wright realized that he was forever to be a marked man, subject for slaughter, down among the magnolia trees where he was born. He knew that duty called upon him to defy a 350-year fiat of the Caucasian that a black man's word must not be set up against a white man's oath. Old man Wright doubtless spent sleepless nights before he went into that courtroom, but when the hour came he gathered his loins about him, as he looked above the stony glares of the sheriff and his deputies (who are the terror of black men and women down South) and pointed the accusing finger at the murderers he knew had abducted his slain nephew from his home.

Mose Wright cannot live in Mississippi any longer. He has moved to Chicago, where black men and women's lives are a little more secure. He's residing now just a little

nearer the fringes of civilization. We suspect he can live a little better with himself and his conscience, since he defied the traditions of Mississippi and exposed the truth.

In a more or less degree the challenge that faced Mose Wright down on the Tallahatchie river faces every black man and woman in America. In recent years the high courts have knocked out disfranchisement, age-old living conditions of both black and white have been destroyed, and the court's most recent edict blotting out separation of the two races in public schools causes every black man and woman to face the open challenge to exercise and practice the rights spelled out for him by the courts.

Ask yourself these questions when you wake up in the morning: "Is it my duty to exercise these rights? Should I wait until the other Negro family sends their child to the white schools before I send mine? Should I continue to ride in the jim crow coach when I travel, or should I ride where the law plainly tells me I may ride? Should I demand my meals in the diner, and should I embrace all of the rights that have been newly spelled out for me?" That is the challenge facing every black man and woman as they pass down the streets daily.

What need for the court to define and spell out clearly a right belonging to you when you lack the courage to exercise that right? Last Tuesday this writer went to the state fair. We do not care anything about auto races, but we purchased a ticket in the grandstand and went directly up the center of that vast structure and took a seat. The park authorities have said I had that right and I desired to exercise same. We saw a large group of Negroes seated off in one corner of the stand, but down where we sat everything was orderly and everyone seemed to know that we had been told that we could sit there. We later went down and took a seat at one of the dining tables and were served.

Now how many Negroes daily are exercising the rights they now know they are entitled to? Because you live in the ghetto that the ruling class established for you in the days of jim crow and segregation, are you content to reside within the cramped confines of that area, and not enjoy some of the richer blessings of American citizenship? Do you realize that you are so victimized and brain-washed by present day segregation practices, much that is unconstitutional and unlawful you actually accept daily as lawful?

Take, for instance, the sheriff and the police. They come to your home and arrest you, taking you immediately to the jail. The law requires him to take you to the nearest justice of the peace, so that you may make bond and that your freedom can immediately be restored. But you have been taken directly to the jail for so many years, and locked up, you think it is constitutional so to do. This is just one of the many instances we could point to where Negroes suffer when they do not have to do so.

No one has any more rights than he knows he has, and it is a terrible situation when you do not have the manhood courage to exercise a right the highest court in the land declares belongs to you. In this atmosphere of freedom we not only should insist upon fair trials and indictments that have integrity in them. Most Negroes are brought into court for offenses they never committed. Under such conditions they could never have a fair trial for they have been dishonestly indicted. In this newer freedom, Negroes should have the spiritual and moral courage to demand honest indictment in our courts.

But we will never be able to do this until we change our leadership. Reaction has across the years been extremely smart. This writer can safely say that in fighting disfranchisement, residential segregation and separate schools across the years we have not gone far in such a struggle before we ran head-on into some Negro who had a proprietary interest in segregation. Reaction had placed this Negro in a favorable position with a good salary, who is charged with responsibility of calling the signals, if Negroes go too far away from the beaten path and the "way of life" fixed for him. These brain-washed Negroes stand at every crossroad. They are the Tories of this modern age, who if listened to will maintain the status quo. At heart they oppose change because their shameful tasks are at stake. They are paid to hold you in the ditch of second-class citizenship.

If integration does nothing else, it is going to do one thing. In a few years we are going to have new leadership. It will be a leadership that wants to take a new adventure in American life. It will be a leadership that can envision how black men and women can win in the newer fields of citizenship and equality. It is going to be a leadership of courage and boldness that will call a spade a spade, and will give the American Negro the spiritual and emotional urge to strike for the highest and the best in American citizenship.

As we said at the outset, we believe Mose Wright, down in the swamps of Mississippi, has set an example in courage and resolution that should be emulated by every Negro who lives in the South. Wright recognized his responsibility and duty and met the challenge. This courage will help to lift the standard of citizenship for a submerged group, down in the Delta country, just as your daily courage to face the challenges of citizenship will help to raise higher standards for black folk in the community where you reside.

Some Explaining To Be Done.

The N.A.A.C.P. has called upon the FBI to do some explaining—and rightly so.

The association wants to know—and so do we—why the Federal Bureau of Investigation refused to make a probe in the Emmett Till case of Mississippi a few weeks ago, yet stepped into the case of a missing New York boy just one day after his disappearance.

Emmett Till was kidnapped just as surely as anybody ever has been kidnapped in this country. The FBI said that it could not launch a federal investigation into the case because there was no evidence of inter-state activity.

In the case of the missing New York boy, there is no evidence (up to this writing) that the lad has been taken out of the state of New York.

Why, then, could the FBI enter the New York case so quickly and readily while it held back on the Till case?

We anxiously await the answer of the FBI to the N.A.A.C.P.'s inquiry.

8929

Mr. Diggs' Timely Suggestion

Pro-American Pitt Baltimore, Md.

Representative Charles C. Diggs Jr., Democrat of Michigan, who attended every session of the Mississippi lynch trial, even though he had to sit at the jim crow press table, came up with what we consider the best suggestion we have heard recently.

Mr. Diggs said he "intended to challenge in court or otherwise the right of every Mississippi congressman to be seated."

He would base his objection, he said, "on the ground that colored people are not permitted to vote in that state."

A similar move to ban Bilbo, also of Mississippi, from his seat in the U.S. Senate was made several years ago by the late Edgar G. Brown.

Some persons might with justification argue that Mr. Brown's fight failed. But we see it otherwise, in that the national attention and discussion engendered by it was strong enough to kill Bilbo a few weeks later.

Since Congress itself is judge of the eligibility of its members, that sort of fight is only one of two prongs available to lovers of freedom, who sincerely believe in and support the United States Constitution.

The Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments were drafted by Republicans following the Civil War to prevent the rebel states from perpetuating slavery.

Sat. 10-8-55

The Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery.

The Fifteenth Amendment declared the right of all citizens to vote, and gave Congress power to enforce it by appropriate legislation.

The Fourteenth Amendment declared all citizens equal and denied the states the right to pass any laws discriminating against American citizens on the ground of race and color.

It established a penalty to be inflicted upon such states as denied citizens the right to vote.

Here is the exact language:

When the right to vote at any election for the choice of electors for President and Vice President of the United States, representatives in Congress, the executive and judicial officers of a state, or, the members of the legislature thereof, **is denied to any of the male inhabitants of such state, being 21 years of age,** and citizens of the United States or in any way abridged . . . the basis of representation therein shall be reduced in the proportion which the number of such male citizens shall bear to the whole number of male citizens twenty-one years of age in such state."

At present Mississippi has some two million people, slightly less than half of them colored.

Mississippi also has six representatives in Congress.

Since it disfranchises by terror and threats and discriminatory laws one-half of its population, its six representatives should be reduced to only three.

The language of the Fourteenth Amendment is not that representation MAY be reduced, but that it MUST be reduced, when the rights of citizens to vote are denied.

We have seen the Supreme Court in the school cases uphold that portion of the Fourteenth Amendment which forbids a state to discriminate against its citizens on the ground of color.

If one clause of the Fourteenth Amendment can be judicially enforced, so can the second clause, applying to the right of all citizens to the ballot.

The Constitution of the United States is crystal clear as to what "must" be done to states who deny the vote to citizens because they are colored.

Thurgood Marshall, an acknowledged expert in this field, advised the AFRO this week, that the NAACP is studying this angle of the civil rights crusade.

It is as important as any other constitutional violation which the Association has to consider.

That is why Congressman Diggs' announcement that he proposes to challenge hereafter the election of any Mississippi congressman "in the courts or otherwise" is to be viewed as both welcome and timely.

We Weep For Mississippi

Defender Sat. 10-8-55

Tallahatchie County, where young Emmett Louis Till's murderers were tried, is one of Mississippi's eighteen Delta counties that make up one of the world's richest cotton farming empires. Negroes far outnumber whites — but the racial equation is one of master and servant and rigidly enforced.

The 12 men who sat in the jury box in Sumner and aquitted two white men — J. W. Milam and Roy Bryant — of one of the most atrocious lynchings in history, were indelible reflections of Mississippi's neurosis about race.

Chicago Ill.

The fact is inescapable that they rendered a completely racial verdict, and thus blazenly announced to the world that Negroes have no rights—nor human dignity — in Mississippi that a white man is bound to respect. Thus, in their hands, due process of law became an instrument of injustice.

Every aspect of the trial was edged by flagrant racism. To begin with, the lily-white jury, overwhelmingly constituted of farmers, had the affrontery to swear to a bare-faced lie — that against their traditions as southerners, their verdict would not be affected by the fact that two white men like themselves were accused of murdering a Negro boy from Chicago.

Moreover, the white defendants had political connections with the sheriff, who incidentally enjoys a political plum with a fee system worth $20,000 yearly. He not alone failed to prepare the case for prosecution, but showed his contempt for Negro reporters covering the trial by calling them "niggers."

The prosecution, though apparently zealous, failed to ask for the death penalty because of the case's racial implications. But perhaps the most shocking aspect, was the fact that the decision by the jury was a foregone conclusion when it was revealed that the defendants' fellow townspeople had started a "defense fund" — for this nakedly revealed the community's racial bias and approval of barbarous racial conduct.

We do not mean to be inflammatory. But we are a Negro newspaper. As such we are a spokesman for the Negro community, and therefore must articulate the community's angers. We had two reporters at the press table—Jim Crowed though they were. We take pardonable pride in the fact they aided the prosecution by helping to find key witnesses.

Even so, we must label the case in Sumner a shocking miscarriage of justice. For the act was condoned by a county, which includes among its residents some very wealthy plantation owners, many of whom are cultured, sophisticated and highly educated.

The white clergy is no less gifted. If the processes of law so inept as to endanger the life of every Negro in the area, we weep for Mississippi.

Courier Editorials

Strategy on Mississippi

Comm Sat. 10-8-55 P-B

HYSTERICAL recommendations by Negro orators and editors for punishing Mississippi for its recent counter-attacks against desegregation and equal suffrage have been nationwide in the days since the miscarriage of justice at the Sumner (Miss.) trial.

Most of these recommendations have been characteristically devoid of realism and have, in general, served to create heat rather than light.

Pittsburgh, Pa.

It is ridiculous to urge, as one New York politician did, that all of the million Negroes leave Mississippi; or that the nation's colored community organize a "March of Mississippi," as several extremists suggested.

Sending insulting letters and telegrams to Mississippi officials likewise can serve no useful purpose, nor can indignation meetings which stimulate furore rather than finance.

What Negroes CAN do is to organize to bring pressure on their various senators and representatives in Washington to implement and enforce the second section of the Four-

teenth Amendment which reads:

2. Representatives shall be apportioned among the several states according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each state excluding Indians not taxed. But when the right to vote at any election for the choice of electors for President and Vice President of the United States, **Representatives in Congress, the executive and judicial officers of a state, or the members of the Legislature thereof is denied to any of the male inhabitants of such state, being twenty-one years of age, and citizens of the United States, or in any way abridged, except for participation in rebellion, or other crime, the basis of representation therein shall be reduced in the proportion which the number of such male citizens shall bear to the whole number of male citizens twenty-one years of age in such state.**

Read this over twice and you can see that if enabling legislation is passed reducing representation in Congress and in the states guilty of denying Negroes the right to vote, Southern representation which is the backbone of the Democrat bloc in the House of Representatives (which gives Dixie the power to thumb its nose at the Federal Constitution and at the nation at large) it will be a stunning blow to the enemy.

To bring this about needs determination, money and organization which would have to come chiefly from colored people the nation over, on a much larger scale and in a more sustained manner than in the various fights for a Federal anti-lynching law.

It would call for an intensive (and therefore expensive) survey of the several hundred counties of the South to determine the extent of such denial of vote, and then a nation-wide publicity campaign to acquaint the country of the facts and what the remedy should be.

It would require that wherever possible every Negro eligible to vote get out and vote for whatever candidates promised to back such a bill and to vote against those who would make no such promise, regardless of party label.

It could be brought home to the North, East and West that those states were being penalized because the Congressional representation of the South is disproportionately large due to the denial of the franchise to colored voters in Dixie.

Aid of certain sections of organized labor and of American business could be secured by showing that denial of manhood suffrage to Negroes is basically responsible for the cheap labor of the South which undermines wage standards and thus enables Southern communities to lure certain businesses to Dixie to escape higher taxes and wages outside the South.

We believe that such a campaign would frighten the South as no obscene letters, threatened hegira from Mississippi, "March on Dixie" or mob denunciation of that area, or even the Supreme Court's desegregation decree ever could or will.

To carry out a determined campaign of this kind which would be most nearly effective in curbing the South's political power based on Negro disfranchisement, a whole lot of money would be necessary, certainly not less than $5 million — or about the average of two dollars from every Negro family.

The thing the South, including Mississippi, fears most is any reduction of its Congressional representation, which has enabled it to play so large a part in determining the policies of this nation throughout its history.

If it desires to continue playing that role, it must be forced to base its position on those citizens who are barred from doing so.

There are other strategies that the Negro national community can use in reprisal against the South's denial of free suffrage and civil rights, but the strategy outlined above would get the quickest reaction from Dixie and would enlist the greatest degree of white support outside the South.

Mississippi Editor Urges Whites to 'Forget Till'

GREENVILLE, Miss. — So-called "white Southern liberal," Hodding Carter, is editor and publisher of the Delta Democrat-Times in Mississippi which reproduced in its Oct. 30 issue an editorial from the Tupelo Journal because "it strikes such a sane and sensible note" concerning the murder trial of Emmett Till in Sumner, Miss.

The editorial said in part: "The time seems to have come for Mississippi to shelve the Till murder case and all the many ramifications resulting from it. Else there is a possibility that we as a state will suffer the same ill effects that an individual undergoes when he broods too long over an incident which could best be forgotten."

It is necessary to forget about the Till incident, said the editorial, because there is a "strong temptation for us to become unduly excited once again over the Till case.

Communist and non-Communist groups in the North, the editorial said, "are capitalizing on the murder, using the Delta crime as a highly effective money-raising lever for the organizations."

"IF WE start brooding," continued the article, "and taking offense to the evident unfairness with which our state is being pictured in such nationally distributed publications as Life magazine, it will be we—not they—who suffer from our obsession with the case.

"Because of the sense of anger and frustration created within us by the tactics of such organizations as the NAACP, Mississippians may develop an attitude of hate and revenge toward individual Negroes with whom we come in contact.

"Many white Mississippians," said the editorial, "feel kindly and sympathetically toward colored people we know personally. In fact," the assertion was made, "the white people of Mississippi probably do more kind and generous deeds for the colored people of our state than we do for each other."

* * *

THERE WERE two points the article asked readers to remember in the "difficult" months ahead: "One is the fact that the Till murder was an act of individuals, not an act authorized nor even condoned by the people of Mississippi. Second is the fact that it is not unusual in American crime history for murderers to go free.

"We should realize," the editorial concluded, "that the Till case was merely one of many murder cases in which justice may, or may not, have gone astray under the American jury system."

On Mississippi's Doorstep

(From The Christian Science Monitor)

Mississippi has not finished with the case of Emmett Till. Nor has American opinion. On the second Monday in November a grand jury will convene in LeFlore County and J. W. Milam and Roy Bryant will be brought before it on the charge of kidnapping the 14-year-old Negro boy. What happens then will closely touch the consciences of Americans, white and black — in Mississippi, the South, and the whole nation.

When a jury in Tallahatchie County refused to convict the two white men of murdering the boy millions were aroused. Here was a feeling which could not be dispelled by explanations that legal processes were followed and that the jury had only the choice between acquittal and life imprisonment. Nor could the fact that thousands of Mississippians were outraged by the murder erase the effects of the trial.

White Southerners could understand why the Negroes of Tallahatchie County are not allowed to vote or serve on juries. And some could blame the whole thing on the Supreme Court or northern "interference." But few thoughtful Southerners would deny that the murderers of Emmett Till had, in the eyes of the world, made "white supremacy" synonymous with violence and injustice. Many recognize that the case so far has greatly damaged the cause of states' rights.

Moreover, many Southerners who (not unlike numerous Northerners) are set against social equality are ardent about equality in the courts. Indeed the Christian people of Mississippi must, we believe, be aware that a complete whitewash in the Till case would be a disaster.

While no American can feel unconcerned or irresponsible about this case, the primary responsibility rests on Mississippi's doorstep. We hope public opinion there will not be led astray on side issues but will press officials to prove that "equality before the law" has real meaning below the Mason-Dixon Line.

Public Protest Mounts Over Nation On Emmett Till Case

State Press P. 1

NEW YORK—Mass protest on the Mississippi trial verdict which acquitted two white men of murdering 14-year-old Emmett Louis Till, drew huge crowds here, in Detroit, in Youngstown, Ohio, and in Dothan, Alabama.

Concurrently, NAACP headquarters has been deluged with telephone calls and letters offering financial and other assistance to the organization in its fight to end what Roy Wilkins, NAACP executive secretary, has termed a "reign of terror", in Mississippi. Fri. 10-7-55

Some 15,000 persons attended the Manhattan meeting on September 25, which was addressed by Mrs. Mamie Bradley, mother of the lynch victim; Councilman Earl Brown; Mr. Wilkins; A. Philip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleepring Car Porters, AFL, which sponsored the meeting, and by others. An overflow crowd in the streets listened to the proceedings via loudspeakers. Traffic in the area had to be rerouted by the police. Little Rock, Ark.

A similar meeting held the same afternoon in the Bronx was under auspices of the Bronx NAACP.

In Detroit a mass meeting drew approximately 15,000 persons, who heard Rep. Charles Diggs (D-Mich.), an observer at the trial, and Medgar Evers, NAACP field secretary for the state of Mississippi. The crowd contributed $14,000 to the NAACP.

A statement issued by the chairman of the NAACP board of directors on the day the verdict was announced called it "as shameful as it is shocking."

Dr. Channing H. Tobias declared that the jurors who returned the verdict "have done their best to discredit our judicial system, to hold us up as a nation of hypocrites and to undermine faith in American democracy." He recommended a Kremlin award to the jurors for their service to communism.

"Their intolerance," he added, "is all the more glaring in light of Judge Swango's fair and impartial conduct of the trial, the particular skill and vigor in presenting the case."

In addition to the written messages, hundred of persons have telephoned offering to do anything possible to speed the day when such a catastrophe as that in Mississippi will be impossible. Many have offered to collect funds and send them in to the NAACP.

All White Mississippians Responsible For Till Lynching, Crisis Declares

"The white people of Mississippi are directly responsible" for the kidnap-murder of Emmett Louis Till, editorializes the October issue of The Crisis, monthly journal of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

"It is a hard conclusion," declares the editorial. "But the facts make it difficult to evade."

The lynching of 14-year-old Emmett Till is "one more casualty" in the Mississippi white people's "campaign of reprisal being waged against the NAACP and Negro advancement," the editorial maintains.

"Citizens Councils are trying to squeeze the Negro down economically. Public officials wink at vote frauds and the organized campaigns to keep Negroes from the polls. And these same officials have boasted that they will not obey the Constitution in the Supreme Court's public school integration decisions . . . State Press

"To these must be added the press-stimulated hate and hysteria. Thus the white minds of Mississippi are poisoned with every imaginable lie and slander about Negroes and the NAACP. P. 8

" . . . Little Till's real crime was the crime of being a Negro in the Christian State of Mississippi - - a State which holds the 71-year (1882-1953) American lynching record with 574 mob victims. Down in Mississippi, where race-linked sex is an obsession, prejudice quickly discovers motives where Negroes are concerned - - even if they are children!"

The editorial notes that "Mississippi whines that she is misunderstood, that she is slandered, traduced, and maligned, that there are good people in the State who condemn the lynching-crime of Money. But where are they? Excepting the novelist, William Faulkner, no responsible citizen has spoken out in rage and indignation."

"There is no use for Mississippi to tell the country that the State condemns the Till murder if at the same time no responsible, highly-placed Mississippian denounces the crime and the State's preachers of violence and hate."

Church Gives $1,000 to Help End Terror in Mississippi

Topping contributions received a NAACP headquarters this week is a gift of $1,000 to carry on the fight for freedom in Mississippi from the members of Concord Baptist church in Brooklyn of which the Rev. Gardner Taylor is pastor.

Following the acquittal of the accused slayers of 14-year-old Till, many persons and organizations have sent in contributions to strengthen the NAACP in the work it is doing in Mississippi and elsewhere in the south to make impossible a recurrence of the brutal Till murder.

Mississippi Shames The South

News + Observer
Raleigh, N. C.
June 4-25-55
P. A.

The acquittal of the two men charged with the murder of a 14-year-old Negro boy after admittedly kidnapping him not only shames the State of Mississippi, but shames the entire South.

That is true because much of the country insists upon regarding the South as a region in which everybody thinks and acts alike. The fact is that most Southerners who favor segregation are quite unwilling to condone violence against Negroes.

The flimsy evidence on which acquittal was secured in the Mississippi case would have convinced very few Southern juries, but the fact remains that it convinced the jury which heard the evidence and that some of it was furnished by the sheriff of the county where the trial was held.

Due to the fact that the boy, a resident of Chicago who was visiting his uncle, was kidnapped in one county and taken to another county, the two still must be tried on the kidnapping charge and Mississippi justice will have another opportunity to redeem itself.

It is also true that the same sheriff, whose professed doubts about the identity of the body recovered from a river, were used by defense lawyers to persuade the jury to free their clients, testified to a confession by the defendants that they kidnapped the boy, but turned him loose unharmed when it was found that he was not the one who had allegedly made insulting remarks to the wife of one of the defendants.

The sheriff's doubts were based on his conclusion that the body recovered from the river was in too advanced a state of decomposition to have been that of the Chicago boy. He was backed in this conclusion by a local physician and a local undertaker. Over against that evidence the jury had to balance the positive identification of the recovered body by the mother and other relatives of the body in question. In addition, a ring given to the kidnapped boy by his father was admittedly found on a finger of the body taken from the river. In addition the jury had before it that a body which has been badly battered and bruises decomposes more rapidly than a normal body.

The two men won their freedom without taking the witness stand. In failing to testify, the defendants exercised a constitutional right and the failure cannot be held against them. However no witness was called to connect the kidnapped boy with the "Negro man" whom one defendant's wife charged with insulting her. The woman's evidence and the claim that the body was "planted" were also used by the defense.

When all of these things are weighted by an impartial observer, the reluctant conclusion that the actual reason for the verdict was race prejudice is inescapable.

The verdict was a shocking one. It should be recorded that the sense of shock was as great in the South as in any section of the country. An overwhelming majority of the people of the South are greatly disturbed about the verdict, not only because it will be construed as reflecting upon the whole South, but because the verdict offends their sense of justice.

'Mississippi Trial Is Not First Time

Constitution
Wed. 10-5-55
P. P.

Marietta—In your recent editorial, "The State of Mississippi Still Carries the Burden," you wonder what the state and county will do if the Russian and Red China murderers point out to the world (via U.N.?) the Mississippi crime, and partiality of their law.

I agree the trial and the acquittal does stink. But it's not the first time the air's been fouled up by injustices in the courts, not only in Mississippi but also in Georgia, both to white and black.

JERE S. SMITHE.

National Whirligig

Advertiser
By Ray Tucker
Thurs. 9-29-55
T. H.

WASHINGTON.

ACQUITTAL of the defendants in the Mississippi "whistle" slaying of a Negro boy gives pertinence to a federal court's warning against the two opposing factions in the racial controversy—white extremists of the Ku Klux Klan order and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The warning was given by Judge Ashton H. Williams of the United States District Court at Charleston, S.C. It was delivered in a suit brought by the NAACP to force desegregation in South Carolina's state parks, beaches, public recreation grounds, etc. It was a direct result of the Supreme Court's decision on public school desegregation.

Judge Williams regarded his statement as so important, especially his holding that the Supreme Court grant was "personal" rather than "racial" in its scope, that he asked newspapers within his jurisdiction to publish it in full. Most of them did so.

Montgomery, Ala.
Herald
Sept 9-24-55
P. H.

HIGH-PRESSURE TACTICS DENOUNCED—The jurist expressed confidence that the South would solve the problem, if reason prevails. Then, he deprecated and denounced both Ku Klux Klan and NAACP high-pressure tactics.

He declared that KKK-ers will be jailed, if they adopt the violent program of their "misguided" predecessors in the 20's. But he believes that most former members of the hooded organization now condemn revival of the night-riding and cross-burning movement.

In criticizing efforts to force and exploit the Supreme Court decision by the NAACP, with the aid of Northern politicians, lawyers, publicists and funds, Judge Williams voices the viewpoint of Southern interests which strive to settle this question equitably and practically. With him, many prominent Negroes deplore attempts to aggravate and capitalize on this grave social problem for personal, political or racial aggrandizement.

★ ★ ★

PERSONAL RIGHTS—"Reports indicate," said Judge Williams, "that they (NAACP) will resort to any means to carry out their purposes. It must be kept in mind that the rights given to Negroes by the Supreme Court are personal, and no one has a right to persuade them by unlawful means or otherwise to exercise the rights given them by the Supreme Court.

Judge Williams' comment on the "personal" nature of the Supreme Court's holding, if correct, means that its advantages do not apply to Negroes as a race, a social group or a special class of citizens. Otherwise, it would be "class legislation" of the worst sort.

★ ★ ★

TWO GROUPS CONDEMNED — In Judge Williams' opinion, the NAACP and the Klan "are the real enemies of progress in the school cases." He concludes:

"It is my belief that no progress can be made unless and until both the Klan and the NAACP are wholly eliminated from the picture in South Carolina.

"This does not mean that officials of the NAACP cannot advise those who seek their advice. I deny their right, however, to coerce or force anyone to seek in our courts a right he does not care to seek.

"I shall scrutinize all cases coming before me most carefully, and if it appears that either the Klan or the NAACP have been guilty of improper or illegal practices, I shall not hesitate to take proper steps."

Acquittal in Mississippi

Washington Post + Times Herald
Sept 9-24-55
P. H.
Washington, D.C.

A number of persons and newspapers in Mississippi expressed indignation before and during the trial for the murder of Emmett Louis Till though the state was being charged with the intention of whitewashing a lynching. This was a particularly vicious and brutal crime with ugly overtones of racial bigotry. There is every reason to think that decent citizens in Mississippi, both white and colored, were revolted by it. Outsiders would do well to remember this in assessing the verdict of "not guilty" rendered by the jury at Sumner.

To many persons who read the reports of the trial it will seem that the prosecution more than proved its murder case against the two white men who admittedly kidnaped the 14-year-old Negro boy after he allegedly whistled at a white woman. The "not guilty" verdict thus is a rude shock. That the accused men deserved a fair trial, and that guilt ought to be proved beyond a reasonable doubt, is obvious. There is no way of telling whether, or how much, prejudice played a part in the jurors' decision. But the racial overtones in the case, and the indignation over outside criticism, make it all the more important for responsible citizens to reexamine the conduct of the trial, including possible intimidation of witnesses. In a sense the state itself will be on trial before the rest of the country in the vigor with which it now presses kidnaping charges.

Mississippi Justice Needs Federal Help

Courier-Journal
Louisville, Ky.
Date 9-24-55

A MISSISSIPPI jury last week acquitted two brutal men obviously and flagrantly guilty of murdering a Negro boy. In the same week a grand jury at Brookhaven, Mississippi, was unable to indict three accused murderers of an elderly Negro farmer because of a lack of witnesses, "although it was generally known, or alleged to be known, who the parties were in the shooting."

These occurrences add to the foreboding with which Americans watch the growth of hatred and the triumph of evil in this southern state. Both crimes must have sickened as many Mississippians as they did in neighboring states. But the forces of law and decency there are silent in the face of a revolt by ignorance and prejudice against the law of the land. The intention of the murderers, insofar as they may have had any conscious intention other than the expression of hatred, seems to have been to warn Negroes not to push for the school integration that the Supreme Court has ordered. The decision on integration was not, of course, made by Negroes and its implementation is not up to them. But to the Mississippians who think that murder can reverse a court decision, simple intimidation is a means to turn back the clock.

Eventually, even in Mississippi, decency will be heard, and the murder of Americans there will be dealt with as the rest of America deals with it. In the meantime, Negroes in Mississippi are American citizens whose civil rights are being flagrantly ignored in this spread of lawlessness. The federal government has laws for the protection of civil rights which transcend state laws. The kidnapping of the Chicago youth and his murder which followed the kidnapping are crimes which called for federal intervention, and which still demand it. The murder of a Negro, in daylight, on the courthouse lawn of Brookhaven, for the crime of trying to stir up Negroes' interest in politics, also demands federal investigation.

Mississippians are said to be resentful of the "outside interference" these ugly episodes are arousing. Federal intervention will do nothing to lessen resentment on the part of people who feel that the murder of Negroes is just a family matter for Mississippians to condone. But it might arouse decent citizens into a realization of the fact that Mississippi's name is becoming a symbol of barbarism to the rest of the country. In addition is the obvious fact that a Negro victim of murder in Mississippi, his relatives and those who defend him, cannot today get from that state the simplest demonstration of justice. The Department of Justice has intervened in many an instance where the denial of civil rights was less clearcut than it is in the Mississippi murders, and its intervention now is overdue.

Acquittal in Mississippi

Herald-Tribune
New York, N.Y.
Sept. 23-55

Every person is entitled to an opinion on the accuracy and justice of the jury's verdict of acquittal in Mississippi. The two white half-brothers accused of murdering a fourteen-year-old Negro boy have been found not guilty. In view of the circumstantial nature of the prosecution's case, and the facade of doubts as to the identity of the corpse taken from the Tallahatchie River, the jury refused to draw conclusions about a foul crime.

Some people will now say that the State of Mississippi rife with political and economic inflammation over the desegregation issue has hereby condoned lynching. That, however, is an unfair and intemperate judgment. The case was one of murder, an individual crime, not lynching, a community crime. All must admit that indictments were swiftly returned, that Governor White assigned a competent special prosecutor, and that Judge Swango's conduct of the case was irreproachable. This is commendable. But the offense nevertheless remains. The boy Emmett Till was abducted from his uncle's home, and if he was not murdered, where is he?

The charges of kidnaping are still to be considered. Perhaps these will produce a different result. Certainly there was an outrage committed, and those responsible should be punished. And here the obligation for decency and justice continues to rest on the law-abiding elements of Mississippi.

Till-Case Witness' Husband Is Unharmed

Courier-Journal
Louisville, Ky.
Sept. 25-55
P. 10

Drew, Miss., Oct. 6 (AP)—Alonzo Bradley, husband of a witness in the Till case and reportedly beaten by a group of white men, said last night that "no one has laid a hand on me."

But, he said, he was forced to move from the plantation run by Leslie Milam, brother and half brother of two men found innocent of murdering Emmett Louis Till, a Chicago Negro boy.

Bradley said Leslie Milam told him "to move off the place," but no violence was used.

Leslie Milam said after Bradley's wife left and Bradley had no one to cook for him, he stayed away from the plantation so much he could not fulfill his contract to raise a cotton crop. He was asked to move, Milam said.

Bradley now is living on another plantation. He is the husband of Mrs. Mandy Bradley, who was taken to Chicago for "safety" after testifying in the sensational murder trial at Sumner.

Two reporters from The Jackson Daily News found Bradley on the plantation near Drew. He said he was not afraid.

"Do you think that anyone would harm your wife if she came back to Mississippi?" he was asked.

"No, sir, I don't think so."

Bradley said he has heard only once from his wife since she went to Chicago, adding that she left without any word or saying good-by.

Representative Charles Diggs, Negro congressman from Michigan, asked recently for an investigation of an alleged beating given Bradley by white men after his wife left.

8932

The Shape of Things

Chicago Boy

The kidnap-slaying in Mississippi of Emmett Louis Till, the fourteen-year-old Negro who is alleged to have "whistled" at a white woman, is dramatic evidence of the existence of "a state of jungle fury" in the Deep South which has been mounting in intensity for nearly a year. The murder of Till was preceded by the murder of Reverend George W. Lee of Belzoni, Mississippi, last May 7, and the shooting of Lamar Smith in Lincoln County in the same state on August 13. In the wake of the Till murder, the local sheriff first "guessed" that he might get around to making an investigation once it had stopped raining and later announced that he was collecting evidence to support his theory that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People might have "planned and plotted" the murder for propaganda purposes! More recently, two suspects have been arrested and, presumably, will be brought to trial. In the meantime, the funeral services for young Till in Chicago—he had lived there—drew thousands of Negro mourners. Over 10,000 persons are said to have filed past the open pine casket in which the body of the Chicago boy could be seen—badly beaten, his teeth knocked out, one side of his face nearly unrecognizable, a small bullet hole through the temple.

The mounting violence in Mississippi is related, both in time and circumstance, to the stepped-up campaign of the White Citizens Councils against the Supreme Court's ruling that segregation in the nation's schools is unconstitutional. Formation of the councils received high sanction. On June 16, 1954, Senator James Eastland, speaking in Forest, Mississippi, called for their

The NATION

organization. The first council formally came into being in October of that year; there are now said to be 25,000 members in the state. The councils insist that they intend to accomplish their aims "through the careful application of economic pressures," but their agitation closely parallels the rise of violence in Mississippi.

In this instance, however, national attention should focus on Chicago, not Mississippi. In situations of this kind, where there has been a succession of acts of violence, a time usually comes when one additional act is enough to tip the scales. From reports of the memorial services for young Till in Chicago, it seems clear that the Negro community there is aroused as it has not been over any similar act in recent history. Without further delay, the Department of Justice should take immediate steps to safeguard the civil rights, including the voting rights, of Negro citizens in Mississippi. On this issue national opinion clearly supports the petition of the N. A. A. C. P. to the Justice Department that it act immediately to halt the reign of terror in the Deep South.

In Memoriam, Emmett Till

(Editor's Note: This editorial is reprinted from the current issue of Life Magazine).

In Mississippi the murder of 14-year-old Emmett Till still goes unpunished. It will be punished, nevertheless, for there is a higher law than Mississippi's.

Emmett Till was a child. One of the South's traditions is the religion of Jesus, who said: "But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea."

Men can be forgiven for prejudice, as a sign of ignorance or imperfect understanding of their religion; no righteous man can condone a brutal murder. Those in Sumner, and elsewhere, who do condone it, are in far worse dangr than Emmett Till ever was. He had only his life to lose, and many others have done that, including his soldier-father who was killed in France fighting for the American proposition that all men are equal. Those who condone a deed so foul as this are in danger of losing their souls.

The soul of Emmett Till himself was known but to few, but it was a thing of value. It was fashioned on July 25, 1941, by the Lord God Almighty who placed on it this distinctive seal:

This is My son, akin to all others, but unlike any one of them. Like each of My children he is unique, irreplaceable, immortal. I hereby send him among other men, who are his brothers.

He went, and was slain. In the dark night of this deed his childish cries for mercy fell on deaf ears. But they were heard, nonetheless, and the Hearer made an entry, that night, beneath certain names, writing once more: "It must needs be that offenses come, but woe to that man by whom the offense cometh."

Sleep well, Emmett Till; you will be avenged. You will also be remembered, as long as men have tongues to cry against evil. It is true now as it was when Christ said it almost 2,000 years ago: "For there is nothing covered that shall not be revealed; neither hid that shall not be known . . . Whatsoever ye have spoken in darkness shall be heard in the light . . . Be not afraid of them that kill the body . . . Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell . . . Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God? . . . Fear not, therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows."

A Southern Tragedy

There will be much expression of indignation as a result of the refusal yesterday of a Mississippi grand jury to indict the two white men on charges of kidnapping the Negro boy of whose murder they were earlier acquitted. Actually the reaction to this failure even to bring the men to trial on the kidnapping charges should be less one of indignation at Mississippi justice than of sadness for the state in which this failure has occurred.

A jury said the men did not murder the boy. Some truly reasonable doubts may have justified that verdict. But if there has not been a complete failure in the reports in this case, the men admitted that they carried the boy off by force. Even if, as they were later reported as saying, they turned him loose, a kidnapping had already occurred.

Well, now the two men are cleared of all charges. Indeed, apparently the whole case is closed. Nobody will be given even slight punishment for the brutal murder of a 14-year-old boy. And some may feel that such a result constitutes the triumph of white supremacy in Mississippi. The truth is that murder has won. Its supremacy in this case is complete. Two men may be freed of murder, but murder in Mississippi remains unavenged—and the murder of a child. The guilt is transferred from the kidnappers and killers of this child to Mississippi justice itself.

That may serve indignation. It certainly is the occasion for sadness in Mississippi—and in the South.

Two men have been freed but Southern justice will seem to millions of honest people everywhere to be bound tightly to the decomposed corpse of this murdered boy.

It would be harder to think of a sadder thing for the South—and the thousands of good, justice loving white people in it, in Mississippi and everywhere else

Mississippi Justice Finds an Excuse

Courier-Journal
Louisville, Ky.
Sept. 11, 1955
P. 6

WITH the refusal of a county grand jury to indict two white men for kidnaping a Negro boy, justice in Mississippi stands itself indicted. For, whatever the rationalization that moved an earlier, all-white trial jury to decide that there was an honest doubt about the boy's murder, it could not apply to his kidnaping. One of the accused men had admitted, in privileged conversation with his friend the Sheriff, removing the boy from his uncle's house in the middle of the night.

Nevertheless, the jury declined to indict them, and the case, so far as the prosecution of Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam is concerned, is ended. The uneasy conscience of Mississippians is at the same time being assuaged by a feat of journalistic enterprise on the part of one of its newspapers.

No law enforcement agency, no reporter, no individual citizen was perturbed by the mystery of what happened to Emmett Till. The defense made its case on the theory that agents of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People had spirited the boy "up North" and placed his father's ring on the finger of an unknown corpse. Presumably the jury believed this story, for it acquitted Milam and Bryant of murder. What a triumph, then, might have ensued for southerners holding this belief, if somebody had indeed traced the youth's movements, found his hideout and exposed the plot.

Nobody seems even to have thought of such an inquiry. Instead, interested parties worked to discover that Emmett Till's father, a soldier in World War II, did not die a hero's death as had hastily been assumed. He had, instead, been executed in Italy for rape and assault.

In a civilization that believes the sins of the fathers should be visited on the children, or that the dark impulses of a grown man in time of war are likely to be transmitted, full blown, to a handicapped youth of 14, such a disclosure might be used to excuse the wanton murder of the youth. Americans have never believed this theory, until now. It seems, however, to be bringing comfort to Mississippians, which may be a sign that even they are disturbed and ashamed of the evil which rides triumphant among them.

6,000 Murders; 3,000 Acquittals

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.
Sept 11-11-55
P. A-4

DESPITE a vigorous prosecution praised by the NAACP, the two white men accused in the Till murder in Mississippi were acquitted.

Then they were charged with kidnaping, on very strong evidence it seemed. But now the grand jury has refused to indict them.

This presumably is the end of the case in the courts. We imagine the prosecutors have closed that file.

There is a national uproar about it, but no consideration of the fact that, as *The Tupelo Journal* says, there are usually about 6,000 murders a year in the U.S. and in about 3,000 of these there is no conviction.

The State of Mississippi Still Carries the Burden

In Sumner, Miss., a 14-year-old Negro boy afflicted physically (and some suggested mentally) by polio, was killed.

Reportedly his lynching, or murder (a matter of semantics) resulted from his "wolf whistle" or "insulting remarks" directed at the wife of a community storekeeper.

Apparently there was no immediate reaction. Some three days afterwards he was taken from the home of his uncle and killed.

The two men charged with this killing now have been acquitted.

The sheriff testified they had admitted abducting the boy. But there were no witnesses to the death.

The prosecution conducted a vigorous case. It was obvious Mississippi was stirred. The lynching, or murder, was brutal. A boy had been killed for an act for which a boy of another color would have been whipped or reprimanded. The state's prosecutors valiantly and honestly sought a conviction.

The jury, summoned by due process, declared the defendants not guilty. That's that. But some person, or persons, are guilty.

The burden remains with Mississippi and with the conscience of the people of the county or counties involved.

Someone killed a 14-year-old boy. He would not have been killed had it not been for his color.

What will Mississippi and Sumner do about it so that the Communists of Russia and of China may not say that in our country the law means one thing for one person and another thing for another.

This crime, unhappily, is known the world around. Unfortunately the verdict will not conclude the case.

Someone, or some persons, are guilty. That's an uncomfortable fact.

The burden still rests on Mississippi.

Supreme Court Denied Justice

Mississippi Grand Jury Only Followed Pattern

To The Commercial Appeal:

Your editorial on the Grand Jury action in Leflore County, Miss., on kidnaping charges in the Till case was laudable as far as it went. The scope of it should have covered much more territory.

The intimation that the American concept of justice had been weighed and found wanting might not be untrue, but the guilt is not on Leflore County alone. If the Grand Jury in question failed in its duty to satisfy justice, it only followed a pattern set by the United States Supreme Court. This latter group ruthlessly scorned the accepted concept when it ruled in favor of a radical minority and against the vast majority. I have been led to believe that under our form of government the majority rules. Now it seems that nine politicians are actually ruling the nation.

I agree that our system of justice is crumbling, but on a national scale. The jury at Greenwood was only following the "new" pattern set by the "great high justices" of the land. They set a pattern of shame and disgrace when they started their dictatorial decrees. They were going to change the lives of 50 million people and gain the headlines for themselves.

The Commercial Appeal is fully aware of the injustice of the dastardly court decrees regarding segregation. That is why your editorial should have started at the source of deviation from the American concept of justice. You cannot fail to know that anything as radical and unfair as the evil being forced against the Southern people should be condemned for the sin it represents. Just as certain as daylight and darkness, the Supreme Court encouraged Emmett Till to insult a white woman. If this is doubted, look at the numerous cases of rape, or attempted rape, by Negroes since the infamous decrees. The latter have made the Negroes more bold in their brutish desires, believing the Supreme Court will protect them.

In view of the subversive nature of our foes, and the wholly unfair pressure against the South, we expect The Commercial Appeal to fight by our side. This would only be in keeping with the policy of this great newspaper in the past, with a record of fairness unsurpassed in the annals of journalism.

So, if justice was found wanting in Leflore, it was first found wanting in the chambers of the United States Supreme Court.

PRESLEY J. SNOW

Stallo, Miss.

6,000 Murders; 3,000 Acquittals

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8934



SOME NEGRO MOTHER

DRAWING AND VERSE BY GEORGE M. COLEMAN

(Editor's Note — The lynch-murder of 14 year old Emmett Louis Till in a hate filled backward Mississippi town leaves one wondering just how Negro mothers must feel in the south after giving birth to a child, knowing the stark tragedy that may be faced in a future filled with mob violence, rigid segregation, etc. This is a story of such a woman, caught in the hopeless tide.)

"Sleep," she said, her dark face
Black against the long white sheet.
"Close your eyes!" She touched his face,
His hands, his tiny feet.
"Soon you must awake to grim reality!"

A thoughtful frown adorned her face,
What should his training be?
Teach him of the Stars and Stripes,
And a nation's glowing spark,
Or of the Klan and the blinded vet
To whom the world is dark?

The white nurse came to wash his face.
He smiled, and touched her hand.
The mother held him close and said,
"No more, my little man."
Before her face she thought to see
The word EQUALITY, made from a
Hangman's rope, the flag, and
Sinking in the sea.

The white sheet burned the mother's breasts,
She bathed his face in tears.
The answer came not to her heart,
All sore, benumbed by fears.
And through the southern sultry night,
Eyes somber, large and grave,
Some Negro mother cried in fear
In the great Home of the Brave.

METHODS IN MISSISSIPPI

Hate filled another bill—
Evil had its will,
And Emmett Louis Till
Lay silent, cold, and still!

The lad had done no wrong,
But prejudice was strong!
And so a coward's throng
Sang Satan's marching song!

They used an axe 'twas said,
Then shot him in the head!
His battered body bled,
While hope and mercy fled.

This low sadistic style
Just made mere murder mild!
Ghoulish hate went wild
To lynch a helpless child!

For Emmett 'day is done'—
No longer may he run,
And have his childish fun
Beneath a smiling sun.

But all the world shall wait,
In every town and state!
Shall wait to see what fate
A crime like this shall rate!

—J. FARLEY RAGLAND

Mississippi - 1955

Especially for ANP
By LANGSTON HUGHES

To the memory of Emmett Till, killed at Money, August, 1955

Oh, what sorrow!
Oh, what pity!
Oh, what pain
That tears and blood
Should mix like rain
And terror come again
To Mississippi.

Come again?
Where has terror been?
On vacation? Up North?
In some other section
Of the nation?
Lying low, unpublicized
Masked--with only
Jaundice eyes
Showing through the mask?
Oh, what sorrow,
Pity, pain,
That tears and blood
Should mix like rain
In Mississippi . . .
And terror, fetid hot,
Yet clammy cold,
Remain.

27d 1955

WHITE PRESS

8935

8935

Indictment In Mississippi

World

(FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES)

Mississippi has a larger Negro population, according to the latest census, than any other state in the Union. The fact makes the state a particularly important testing ground in race relations toward greater justice and greater democracy in Mississippi, then we can feel grateful.

Jus, 9-13-55

On Sunday, Aug. 28, a 14-year-old Negro boy named Emitt Till was kidnapped after an incident at the little town of Money near Greenwood in which he had allegedly whistled at a white woman. Three days later his body was found in the Tallahatchie River. Yesterday a grand jury indicted two white men on charges of murder and kidnapping in connection with young Till's death. The men deny the crime and the trial, of course, is still to come.

Birmingham Ala.

The fact remains that the Tallahatchie County grand jury, made up of white men, took this step against other white men, for a crime against a Negro. Over a long term of years Mississippi stood at the head of the shameful list of the states in which lynchings had occurred. There are few or no lynching now in any state in an ordinary year. The prompt action of the grand jury in the Till case indicates that the people of contemporary Mississippi are against this form of murder as against other forms of murder.

Disgrace in Mississippi

Herald Tribune

The sovereign state of Mississippi has just suffered a disgrace. Down in the Delta country a visiting Negro boy from Chicago is supposed to have insulted a white woman by making "ugly remarks" and for that heinous offense was kidnaped, shot in the head and dumped into the Tallahatchie River. This, in the opinion of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, constitutes a lynching. Regardless of definition (lynching is supposed to consist of mob action by at least three persons, and in this case it is unclear whether more than two were involved) the boy is just as dead. He was murdered by lynchers in spirit.

There was a time when Tuskegee Institute in Alabama gathered statistics each year on the grisly phenomenon of lynching. But the last established instance was in 1951, and the country congratulated itself thereafter that this particular outrage against law and order, especially directed against the Negro minority, had been stamped out by growing enlightenment. It seems now that this self-esteem may have been slightly premature, at least as related to some parts of Mississippi.

New York Post

9-3-55

The white supremacists in Mississippi are quick to say that this murder on the Tallahatchie cannot rightly be blamed on their resistance to desegregation. Of course they do not condone even the approximation of lynching, but it is hard to see how calculated inflammation—politically and economically—can fail to feed the fires. In the case of the Chicago boy, Emmitt Till by name, Mississippi is on the defense. We hope there will be swift prosecution to maintain law against the forces of darkness and to deter any other would-be lynchers.

Emmett Till Would Be Alive Today If He'd Respected South's Customs

Appeal

To The Commercial Appeal:

Since the trial of Milam and Bryant on the charge of murdering Emmett Till, I have read many letters to the editor of The Commercial Appeal. None of them seems to have reached the heart of the matter.

Memphis Tenn. 9-23-55

Many years ago the white people of the South realized that the law offered no adequate protection for their women, and as always all over the world, when the law is unable to protect, the people provide their own protection for their families. For this reason it became an unwritten law that no Negro should approach a white woman, and if he did, the penalty was drastic. The Negro himself, by his conduct only, can provide the answer to whether or not such situation exists today.

There had not been a Negro killed in this state for many years under such circumstances as may have been characterized as a lynching. During this time it appeared that the whites of Mississippi were determined to give the black an opportunity to establish his place among civilized people, and in spite of an unprecedented number of murders and rapes of white people by the black, too numerous to set out here, and each more savage and ghastly than anything that occurred in the Till incident, the white people of this state have exercised remarkable patience and restraint.

The Till incident was nothing more than spontaneous combustion generated by such criminal attacks upon a long-suffering people, and the Negroes have no one but themselves to blame for what happened. Had Till observed the code and custom here, with which he was fully familiar, he would, without doubt, be picking cotton with his hosts in Sunflower County.

Every Negro in the United States knows he will not be permitted to make advances to white women in Mississippi, and when Till deliberately, with full knowledge of the seriousness of his act propositioned a white woman, he must have known he was setting in motion a chain of events calculated to inevitably lead to his death. He might just as well have pointed a loaded pistol at his head and pulled the trigger. That would have been called suicide.

A Negro who bears respect for established custom here is safer and happier here than he would be anywhere else in the world.

OBSERVER

Greenville, Miss.

27d 1955

WHITE PRESS - NEW YORK TIMES 8936

NATION

RACIAL ISSUES STIRRED BY MISSISSIPPI KILLING

Whites Are Quick to Condemn It, But Many Resent 'Interference'

By JOHN N. POPHAM

Special to The New York Times.

SUMNER, Miss., Sept. 17—While hand-laborers and modern mechanized equipment move across the snow-white fields of Mississippi under the hot September sun, a sordid murder case has focused the glare of national attention on the intricate system of race relations which the dominant white group enforces in the name of stability.

In the three-story, gray-brick courthouse of this county seat of Tallahatchie County, the details of the murder case will be dramatized in formal trial proceedings that begin on Monday. But in several senses the real drama will concern the entire state and its role as a militant defender of racial segregation practices.

On Aug. 31, the body of 14-year-old Emmett Till, a Chicago Negro boy, was found in the Tallahatchie River. There was a bullet hole over the right ear, the other side of the head had been bludgeoned and the body was wired to a heavy metal fan that is used in the operating machinery of a cotton gin.

Within forty-eight hours, law enforcement officers of Tallahatchie County and neighboring Leflore County had brought about the arrest of Roy Bryant, 24 years old, and his half-brother, J. W. Milam, 36 years old, on charges of kidnapping young Till. On Sept. 6, an all-white Tallahatchie County Grand Jury indicted both men on murder and kidnapping charges in the death of the Chicago youth.

The story told by the law enforcement officers was that Till had been visiting his 64-year-old uncle, Mose Wright, a cotton field worker of Leflore County. In recent years a great many Negroes have emigrated from this section to Chicago to get industrial jobs and during summer months and on holidays there is considerable visiting among the parted family members.

Went to the Store

On Aug. 24, Till and several other Negro boys went to the grocery store operated by Bryant and his 21-year-old wife at Money, a cotton workers' community of about 200 people in Leflore County hard by the Tallahatchie County line.

They were said to have purchased some bubblegum from Mrs. Bryant while she was alone in the store at about 7 P. M.

The Bryant store has been pictured in some reports as a cross-roads emporium in a lonely country area. Actually, the store centers in a cluster of buildings, including homes, a cotton-ginning establishment about 100 yards in one direction and a gasoline filling station about twenty-five feet in the opposite direction.

Till reportedly made "some remarks" to Mrs. Bryant in the store and later greeted her with a "wolf whistle" as she walked out of the door to go to her car. It was reported that Till's companions hustled the Chicagoan into their auto and drove away.

On Aug. 28, Till was taken from his uncle's home in the predawn hours by two men. Sheriff George Smith of Leflore County has said that Bryant and Milam told him they took the boy away in their car and that they released him the same day when they became "convinced" he was not the "same boy" who had whistled at Mrs. Bryant.

Public Reaction

The finding of Till's body and the piecemeal reports of the alleged motivations of the crime touched off an explosion of public reaction in Mississippi, where the subject of race relations has had an inflammatory status by reason of the Supreme Court's historic decision on May 17, 1954, that public school racial segregation laws are unconstitutional.

The reaction to Till's murder reveals the wrenched feelings of Mississippi. The picture is one of white supremacy that skates the thin ice separating it from white tyranny.

Overridingly, the white community of Mississippi reacted to Till's slaying with sincere and vehement expressions of outrage. From one end of the state to the other, newspaper editorials denounced the killing, demanded swift retributive justice and warned that Mississippians could defend their theories of separation of the races only if the law enforcement machinery was geared to equal justice for both races.

Public officials from the Governor down called for determined prosecution in the Till case.

Governor Hugh White and Attorney General J. P. Coleman, who last month won the Democratic gubernatorial nomination which assures him of becoming the next chief executive, moved jointly in naming a special prosecutor to handle the trial of the Till case.

In this instance, perhaps to a depth hitherto unknown in Mississippi race-relations annals, Negroes working in white homes and in downtown stores and restaurants heard on every side a strong and vigorous condemnation by white people, friend and stranger alike, of brutality in race relations. Many of the state's Negro leaders paid tribute to this development.

But the Till killing involves more than a murder case in Mississippi. The reaction to it involves the whole picture of race relations.

In the course of waging an all-out fight to preserve the dual race system in the face of court litigation that has resulted in rulings adverse to Mississippi's views, the state's white leadership has often singled out those it regards as "enemies" and has denounced them in strong language.

Mainly, these "enemies" have been the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which has provided legal services for most of the court actions brought by Negroes seeking to expand their civil rights guarantees.

Angry Opinion

For many months now public speakers and writers of letters-to-the-editor have blanketed the state with assertions that the N. A. A. C. P. is a "Communist-led" organization that seeks to "mongrelize" the races and that the Supreme Court is composed of "political shysters" with a predilection for Communist ideology.

As a consequence of the constantly raging debates over the actions of the N. A. A. C. P., the decisions of the Supreme Court and the impact of all this on the political realm which involves public-office holders at election time, the race relations climate in Mississippi has been extraordinarily touchy.

Therefore it came as no great surprise when the high tide of denunciation of the Till slaying was met with a backwash of opposite reaction in some quarters because of developments that involved the N. A. A. C. P. and "outsiders" in general.

All over the state there were expressions of resentment in which the spectre of the N. A. A. C. P. was exhumed, references were made to "Communist interest" in the Till slaying and the cry of "enemy" was sounded far and wide.

Specifically, the N. A. A. C. P. opponents were angered at having the Till slaying labeled a "lynching," at the demand of public officials in Illinois for Federal Government action in the case and at reports that Till's body was put on public view in Chicago while donations were solicited for the work of the N. A. A. C. P.

Indignation Wanes

To many observers, this counter-reaction in the Till case served to reduce in some measure the indignation that first greeted the disclosure of the killing. More accurately, perhaps, those who were most vehement in their denunciation of the killing continued to hold such sentiments, but their secondary following seemed to fall away.

However, there are those who hope that whatever takes place in Sumner's courtroom, the swift sense of outrage that marked the state's first reaction to the killing will be a lasting item in the race-relations struggles ahead over the public school matter. But at this stage that is only a hope.

ACCUSED OF MURDER



Associated Press

Roy Bryant.

Emmett Lewis Till

Dear Sirs: Unless the state of Mississippi acts forthrightly to avenge the kidnapping and murder of fourteen-year-old Emmett Lewis Till and also to guarantee protection of all Americans who happen to be in that state regardless of color, the United States government is morally and legally justified in occupying the state with federal troops. The kidnapping and murder of the Chicago Negro boy is a crime that calls for the gravest consideration by all officials and every citizen.

When President Hayes in April, 1877, ended the military occupation of the rebel states of the South, he did so on the basis of a solemn pledge by Southern leaders that they would grant protection to the Negroes on the same plane as the whites. President Hayes was a man of principle and accepted the pledge of the Southern leaders at face value. He was betrayed by the South. This was a great tragedy in his life, and a greater tragedy for America. The murder of the Chicago boy is testimony that the South must somehow be made to realize that all America expects it to redeem its pledge to President Hayes.

The politicians of both parties have a responsibility for the villainy in Mississippi—Republican leaders who have pretended devotion for civil rights for the Negro in the South, and Democratic leaders who have either remained silent or have cooperated actively in the Southern idea of treating Negro Americans as second-class citizens. The misguided whites who perpetrated the crime were not alone in the guilt. Some of the blood of Emmett Lewis Till is also on the garments of the Byrneses, Talmadges, and Shiverses of the South. There are good people in the South. There are good liberals in the South. There are good Americans in the South. But Governor Byrnes of North Carolina, former Governor Talmadge of Georgia, and Governor Shivers of Texas have been setting the moral and cultural tone of the South and setting it so low that fratricide and homicide are predictable results.

There should be public meetings of protest in every enlightened community, North as well as South, on the murder of the Till boy. We may be sure the Communists will plan such demonstrations. But those of us who have faith in American democracy should not let the Communists take the lead.

HARRY BARNARD.

Chicago, Ill.

TWO VIEWS ON THE TILL CASE



Tapley in The New York Amsterdam News

A NEGRO VIEW: "State of murder."



Baldy in The Atlanta Constitution

A WHITE VIEW: "We interrupt this program . . ."

nes Through"

Story Of An East Texas Peace Officer And How He Prevented A Lynching

By Ervin M. Lane

In the year 1914, I first became acquainted with "Uncle Russell Stiles whom everyone seemed to love and admire. He had retired from official duty in or about 1905 or 1906. Prior to that time Uncle Russ had honorably served Red River county for two terms, as Sheriff.

At that time, it seems that the white citizens were neither better nor worse than their class in other parts of Texas and the South. They would likely tell you in discussing the Race issue, that they did not dislike Negroes, in fact they like them, that is, if they "Knew their Places." And they would likely point with pride to some old time Darkey, and say now there is "A White Man's Negro" and if you should not understand just what that meant, well they would freely tell you that "He knows his Place."

Well anyway, along about 1900 or along about that time, some unfortunate Negro walked across town, and at a party drank just a little too much. Then along about 12 p.m, or 1 a.m. this young Negro started home, which happened to be clear across the town, and being sort of "Bleary - eyed and Wobbly on his feet in going down a rather dim and unlighted street in the part of town where all were white, he staggered upon and bumped into a white woman who probably being already scared, fell down in her fright, and started screaming with all her might.

TH POOR Negro himself being scared, r dhteiealzhhdetaa ng scared, realized that he had

THE POOR Negro himself being scared, realized that he had better get away from there fast. Well, the Woman's screams brought aid, in that several men and boys came running, asked the frightened woman what was the trouble. Well, she reported that a big Negro tried to rape her.

A running figure could be seen in the distance, however no on was able to catch him. In a short time, the sheriff was notified and the search began. Two days later, a transient Negro who acted somewhat suspiciously, was arrested under suspicion and locked in the county jail.

As is usual in most Southern communities, news travels faster over what is generally called the Grapevine," than any other means, so it was not long until the news got around that "Sheriff Stiles" had arrested that dirty rapist.

"So the Mob began to gather, and as usual too, those least moral, generally some one or more ex-convicts become the prime movers and generally becomes the leaders.

TAKE FOR illustration the time when the lynching mob burned the courthouse in Sherman, Texas many years ago, two ex-convicts from Oklahoma were the prime leaders and they did all the inciting, while the average citizen simply stood around and wondered what would happen next.

This mob did not succeed in getting the Negro alive, because they dared not climb the stairway up to the court room where the Negro was being tried, the reason was, a State ranger who stood at the top of the stairs with a machine gun daring them to come up.

So next, they went to a filling station bought a can of gasoline, threw it through a downstairs window and "Poof" up went the court house in flames. Firemen came hooked up the water hose which some mobsters cut with an axe. The Law realizing that they could not bring the Negro down and get away, through that wild gang locked the Negro in the supposedly "Fire Proof vault." However, the fire raged so that the Negro was suffocated. Some one got an acetylene torch, burned a way from the outside through the wall and the steel vault, climbed in and threw the dead body out as if it was a sack of meal.

SOME ONE tied a rope around the neck of the corpse hitched it to the back end of an old car and dragged the poor dead man down through "Negro-town," hoping thereby to get an excuse to kill innocent Negroes.

They even attempted to burn the homes of the Negro citizens. One white man of my acquaintance, who owned several of the Negro houses, rushed down there and got himself in one of his houses, and vowed that he would kill any dirty "So and So," who tried to set fire to his property.

Incidentally, not more than one or two individuals were ever apprehended and convicted for this heinous crime. And they happened to be ex-convicts from Oklahoma, naturally the local law could not remember seeing any local citizens there. (And do you know friends both white and Negro, I have found that those individuals who are the most bitterly prejudiced against Negroes are to be found in the ranks of the least literate. They have it would seem, an inferiority complex).

THEY FALL out with Negroes in bad times because sometimes they find the Negro working when they are unemployed. This may be so for various reasons. Anyway the ignorant white man likes to feel because of his inferiority complex, that "somewhere there is some one "beneath his status.

But to gt back to Sheriff Stiles and the angry mob, they came storming along, hundred's of them. They came on down the street. They came to the Square, in the center of which was the jail. Sheriff Stiles had been warned and he knew they were coming. However he later told me that he also knew that brave men would not be found in mobs. Sheriff Stiles had no time to call for outside help s believing in "Justice," that everyone regardless of race is entitled to a fair trial and that everyone is supposed to be innocent until he is proved guilty. Sheriff Stiles walked out on the porch in front of the entrance to the jail, and stopped at the top step. There he stood for a a few moments until as the old saying has it, "he could see the whites of their eyes."

Then he suddenly held up his hand and said," Just a moment Gentlemen. I understand that you all have come to get the young Negro who has been accused of attempted rape. Now I shall not lie to you. I have the Negro under arrest and he is in a Jail cell and while he is in my custody, I intend to see to it that no harm shall befall him.

Now I have no way of knowing whether this Negro is the guilty one or not. No one can know that until he is tried. Now then Gentlemen, I understand that you all are determined to take this Negro out of jail, out of my custody and that you intend to lynch him. Well now, Gentlemen, "and just then he pulled out from holsters and held pistols in both his right and left hand.

* * *

SO HE said, now Gentlemen there is only one of me and yours is a crowd. You may take this Negro, but if you do, you will take him over my dead body. You can kill me but I will kill several of you before you can kill me.

Now which one wants to be the first to step onto the bottom step of this jail house. Well, after the Mob was halted they scuffed their feet, they looked foolishly at each other. Then they slowly turned and went away in a body. A few days later, this poor Negro was turned free and months later the "Good Lady" involved, admitted that she was merely frightened and that probably the Negro was as badly frightened as she was.

The sheriff of whom I write was the Father of Dr. John C. Stiles, now deceased, who once had his office in the Wilson building. Another son was United States Deputy Sheriff, once stationed in Paris, Texas.

Fikes Gets Life On Guilty Plea To Wife Slaying Charge

27e(2) Ala

BESSEMER, Ala. (SNS) — Samuel Fikes, 21-year-old Korean War veteran, pleaded guility to a first degree murder charge in connection with the May 17 slaying of his pretty 44-year-old estranged wife, Mrs. Ara Anderson Fikes, and was sentenced to life imprisonment in the penitentiary, last Monday morning.

World Pr

Fikes withdrew his original plea of not guilty before the jury, at the outset of his trial in Circuit Judge F. [illegible] Matthews' court, Monday morning.

Eri 6-17-55

Without leaving the box the jury recommended the life sentence and Judge Matthews read the verdict.

Represented by defense Attorney Roderick McCleoud, Fikes was charged with allegedly choking to death his pretty wife, 23 years his senior, Mrs. Fikes, in her home, 5145 Avenue C, Fairfield, around eleven o'clock Tuesday night, May 17.

Deputy Coroner James O. Butler said that, following an extensive search, the lifeless, nude body of Mrs. Fikes was found in some woods on the side of a road leading to a garbarge dump near the Shannon community highway five miles south of Bessemer, around 1:30 p. m. Thursday, May 19.

Birmingham Ala

Coroner Butler said an autopsy showed that the pretty Mrs. Fikes neck had been broken.

Deputy Circuit Solicitor Howard H. Sullinger, Bessemer, prosecuted for the state, in the case.

Fikes waived a preliminary hearing and the Circuit Grand Jury immediately returned an indictment of first-degree murder against him, June 13 court officials said.

Fairfield Chief of Police Lacey Alexander quoted Fikes, in a purported confession, as saying that he choked his estranged wife to death and then allegedly tried to dispose of her body by burning it on the garbage dump.

Fikes, who gave 330 South 18th Street, Birmingham, as his address, was also quoted as saying that he sent his late bustnes woman-wife money while he was serving in the United States Army for more than three years in Korea. He claimed that upon his return home, and subsequent discharge, "my wife, Ara, jilted me," police said.

Mrs Luvella Fikes, of 424 South Delta Street, Birmingham, mother of the accused convicted ex-soldier, said that her son, Samuel, was married to the late Mrs. Fikes when he was only 18 years old. At that time the mother said, the late Mrs. Fikes' age was reported as 41.

Mrs. Fikes, the mother, said that her convicted son put up his age and volunteered for duty in the armed forces. He said he was discharged from the Army, November 4, 1954.

Fikes and his late pretty wife, Ara, had been having domestic difficulties, and had been awaiting a two-week-old pending divorce decree, prior to her death, relatives said.

Assault Ravish Charges Against Wright Jr. Dropped

World

Pr 11-6-55

By EDDIE C. JACKSON

PHENIX CITY, Ala. — (SNS) — Charges of assault with intent to ravish were dropped against Wiley Wright, Jr., corporal at Fort Benning, Ga., at a hearing here Thursday, Oct. 27 before Russell County Circuit Judge J. B. Hicks.

Pr

The action came about this way: The charges were changed from "intent to ravish" to simple assault and then dismissed subject to payment of [illegible]

Birmingham

Attys. Peter A. Hall and Orzell Billingsley, Jr., defense lawyers for Wright, had subpoenaed approximately 80 witnesses. Among those summoned were lawyers, court officials, and about 50 Negro persons. State's Atty. Gen. John M. Patterson was subpoenaed.

Defense counsel was ready with a series of motions attacking jury duty selection and raising other constitutional questions. Main attack was expected to be leveled against alleged exclusion of Negroes from jury service.

Atty. Billingsley, who is a specialist at laying predicates for attacks on the jury selection system based up on race, was prepared for such a legal maneuver in this case, he said.

The prosecution was apparently prepared to sidestep any clash over the jury selection question. Reports had spread around legal circles that the state had only a weak case against Wright and that its key prosecution witness was now out unavailable.

27e(2)

Wright was among six jailed on Sept. 4, 1954 for allegedly making revelry remarks at a white waitress as she walked along Highway 431 and they rode in an automobile. State National Guards on duty during the "vice clean up" of Phenix City arrested the youths. The city was under partial martial law at the time. Some of the six arrested youths said at the time that they were beaten. A total of 26 charges were placed against them. Wright was identified as the driver of the car.

Others arrested were identified as William H. Guinn, Charles C. Ross, John Lyles, Isaac Lee Turner and

Bessemer White Gets 180 Days, $500 Fine In Attack On Child

World

Fri. 9-9-55

BESSEMER, Ala. — (SNS) — A 49-year-old Bessemer white man, accused of making "improper advances" at an eight-year-old girl, was found guilty of "assault and battery," fined $500 and sentenced to 180 days hard labor on the County road, it was learned yesterday.

The defendant, Aubrey Chester Hamrick, white, of 830 South Hall Street, was arrested and jailed on August 19, after he was accused of stopping at the residence of the child's parents, around 3:30 p. m., that day, and allegedly making improper advances toward the young victim as she sat on the front porch bannister swinging her legs, Solicitor Howard H. Sullinger's office said.

Birmingham Ala

Following testimony at the trial, in Civil Misdemeanors Court, Jefferson County, presiding Judge Frank Ball found the defendant guilty as charged, and set the fine and sentence.

Attorney David H. Hood, Jr., prosecuting counsel for the child's family, argued that "irrespective of how humble, torn or beaten the young girl's home may have been, neither the accused man, the king and all his men, nor the court or any man have the right to disturb her and the peaceful enjoyment thereof; that the accused was guilty as charged by his own admissions."

Upon his arrest, Hamrick was placed in County Jail on a suspicion of allegedly commiting "carnal knowledge."

Prosecuting witnesses, Eugene Jones and Mrs. Viola Jones, of 128 North 9th Street; Mrs. Alma Parham, Ronnie Boyd and Gussie Clancey, all testified that they saw Hamrick stop at the house where the children were playing and allegedly advanced toward the child.

The child's parents were away from home when the alleged incident took place, testimony disclosed.

Phenix City Drops Case Against GI

Courier Pittsburgh

Pr 11-12-55

PHENIX CITY, Ala. (ANP) —Charges of assault with intent to ravish were dropped against Wiley Wright Jr., corporal at Fort Benning, Ga., at a hearing here before Russell County Circuit Judge J. B. Hicks.

The charges were changed from "intent to ravish" to simple assault and then dismissed subject to payment of cost.

Wright was among six jailed on Sept. 4, 1954 for allegedly making remarks at a white waitress as she walked along Highway 431 and they rode in an automobile.

11-12-55

State National Guards on duty during the "vice clean-up" of Phenix City arrested the youths. The city was under martial law at the time.

Court Grants Negro Stay Of Execution

Advertiser Montgomery, Ala.

Sat. 11-26-55

Pending an appeal of his case to the U.S. Supreme Court, the execution of a Perry County Negro which was scheduled last night has been postponed until Feb. 10.

William Earl Fikes, 30, of Marion, was to be executed last night in the electric chair at Kilby Prison for breaking into the home of Mrs. Jean Heinz Rockwell at Selma in 1953. Mrs. Rockwell is the daughter of Selma Mayor Chris Heinz.

Fikes is also serving a 99-year sentence for raping a soldier's wife. Police blamed Fikes for a series of burglaries and attacks which had terrorized Selma housewives.

The stay of execution was ordered by the State Supreme Court, which previously upheld Fikes' death sentence and rejected a defense motion for a rehearing.

The appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court is being made by attorneys for the National Assn. for Advancement of Colored People.

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Folsom Gives Negro Rapist Chair Respite

A Negro sentenced to die in Kilby Prison's electric chair Friday night for raping a white woman had his life spared yesterday by Gov. James E. Folsom when attorneys for the state failed to show up for the clemency hearing.

John Howard Mincy, the 32-year-old defendant, had his sentence commuted to life imprisonment. He had been convicted for raping the woman May 19 of last year at Whistler, Ala.

Hearing Interrupted

Folsom abruptly interrupted the hearing to announce his decision with this terse declaration:

"No prosecution. Clemency granted. I've read this case."

MacDonald Gallion, senior assistant to Atty. Gen. John Patterson, said late yesterday the attorney general's office "was not notified of the clemency hearing."

"By custom we are always willing to have representatives at such hearings," Gallion said, "either at the request of the governor or from the solicitor who prosecuted the case."

"However, we were not requested by anyone to be present," he added "nor were we even notified the clemency hearing was being held."

At the opening of the hearing, Folsom asked where the prosecuting attorneys were, and when none responded he instructed defense attorney Peter Hall of Birmingham to present his case.

However, a few minutes later he interrupted Hall to ask again, "Where is the prosecution? Aren't they here?"

When it was evident the prosecuting attorneys were not present, Folsom announced his decision.

All six of Mincy's children were present at the hearing.

8939

NAACP Lawyers Attack Montgomery Jury Setup

Rapist Counsel Tries To Prove NegroesBarred

27e(2)

Both Circuit Judges Take Witness Stand To Deny 'Exclusion'

By FRED ANDERSEN
Advertiser Assistant Managing Editor

An overnight cease-fire was called at 7 p.m. yesterday in the most determined attack in history on the Montgomery county jury system.

Two Birmingham Negro attorneys, retained by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), spent the entire day in an attempt to prove Negroes were "systematically excluded" from the grand jury which indicted and the petit jury which convicted Negro rapist Jeremiah Reeves, their client.

Reeves won a new trial last Dec. 6 when the U.S. Supreme Court handed down a decision voiding the death penalty which had been decreed in November, 1952. The high court gave no reason for its reversal.

The Negro jazz drummer, who has fattened up considerably during his two and one-half years in Death Row at Kilby Prison and back again in the county jail, sat through the lengthy testimony yesterday without expression.

Carter Special Judge

Hearing the motion filed by Attys. Orzell Billingsley Jr., and Peter Hall was Special Judge Jo[illegible] Carter of Circuit Judges Walter B. Jones and Eugene Carter disqualified themselves for the hearing since both had been summoned as witnesses for the Reeves' motion.

Under local adaptation of a state law, Montgomery Board of Jury Commissioners is unique in Alabama. Members are the two circuit judges, the probate judge, the sheriff and the clerk of Circuit Court.

First witness called yesterday afternoon was Judge Eugene Carter, who left a case he was trying in another courtroom to take the stand for 52 minutes.

Judge Eugene Carter outlined in detail the methods by which the jury board obtained names for jury lists and rolls and other functions.

Exclusion Denied

Under pressing examination by Billingsley, he calmly denied several times the query, "Isn't it true, Judge Carter, that Negroes are systematically excluded from Montgomery county juries?"

The witness swore neither he nor any other member of the board could tell by looking at a name on the jury list or card in the jury box the color of a man's skin.

The veteran jurist admitted he could "usually tell by the address" whether a prospective juror was white or Negro, but declared "We can't always be sure then—not by any means."

Judge Carter explained John Mathews, Circuit Court Clark, is also clerk of the jury board. As such, the judge went on, Mathews does most of the spadework involved in collecting names to make up jury lists.

Many Sources Listed

He said the board as such frequently visited various places throughout the county to get prospective jurors' names. He added the group resorted to the polling lists, club membership lists, the city and telephone directories and recommendations from reliable citizens of both races.

Repeated questioning by Billingsley brought a steady "I have no idea" reply from Judge Carter as the Negro attorney bore down in an attempt to get the name of a single Negro "you know is now on the jury list."

Judge Carter explained he would have to read the names and might spot some Negroes he knew personally, otherwise he could not tell which race the man listed belonged to since there were no special designations made in the book.

List Revised Often

The witness testified the list was revised "in accordance with the law" at stated intervals and said the last revision was made around the first of the year.

Billingsley wanted to know "your yardstick" in deciding whether or not a man was desirable for jury duty.

Judge Carter answered, "We try to get them between the ages of 21 and 65, residents of Montgomery, honest, upright, and with some education whom we either know or have had recommended to us by good citizens."

Then the witness volunteered the information he had "even received lists from the NAACP. The list had no ages or occupations listed so I sent it back asking for more information. The qualified names on that list are all in the box."

Judge Carter then observed he had asked one of his Negro friends "whose name I won't call to save him embarrassment" for a list of 20 qualified jurors among Montgomery Negroes.

Took One Month

"It took him a month to do it," Judge Carter added with a smile at Billingsley.

Jones was the next witness for the defense.

In reply to Billingsley's droning query about the "systematic exclusion" of Negroes, Judge Jones snapped an answer before the question.

"It is not true," he asserted.

Bar President Grilled

As the courtroom full of about 120 Negroes and at least a dozen of Montgomery's top lawyers listened intently, the NAACP counsel grilled the president of the Alabama Bar Association in his own courtroom for almost 30 minutes.

Questions and answers followed the same line as used with Judge Carter.

Mathews then was sworn and t first rattled out a firm "no—not ever" to the "systematic exclusion" question. Then he qualified it with the statement such had not been the practice "for the last 10 years, anyway."

Through all his questioning, Billingsley sought to bring out the fact although Montgomery's population is split about 60 per cent white and 40 per cent Negro, seldom if ever has the Negro percentage on a jury venire exceeded 10 per cent.

Asst. Sol. Robert B. Stewart countered by establishing through Matthews' testimony "about 90 per cent" of the defendants in criminal cases in this county are Negroes.

18 Negroes Testify

In addition to two circuit judges and Mathews, Billingsley had Sheriff Mac Butler and ex-Sheriff G. A. Mosley on the stand for his case, and then followed them with seven local attorneys and 18 Negro witnesses.

The members of the Montgomery Bar who testified were Charles Pinkston, chief of staff to Gov. Folsom State Sen. Vaughn Hill Rob;ison; T. Bowen Hill, a junior partner in Special Judge Carter's legal firm; Walter Stova;ll, another law partner of Special Judge Carter, and John Godbold.

Assisting Sol. William F. Thetford and Stewart in the case was James Garrett, representing the Board of Jury Commissioners s a special counsel.

Six of the 18 Negro witnesses were Pullman porters, who are legally excused from jury duty, four ministers, two bricklayers, a plasterer, a butcher, a businessman and a barber.

TRY CAPTAIN, 41, IN RAPE-DEATH OF ARMY WIFE

27e(2)

Faces Penalty of Death If Convicted

Huntsville, Ala., May 24 [Special]—The state today presented testimony at the trial of Capt. Marcus Bluth, 41, of Joliet, Ill., to support its contention that he raped and fatally injured a fellow officer's wife, with whom he went on a drinking bout.

Bluth had been charged with murder in the death of Mrs. Helen Tereza Meighen, 32, a Polish born beauty, but the state, in a surprise move, dropped that charge and announced conviction would be sought on charges of rape and first degree manslaughter. Rape is punishable by death in the electric chair.

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Killed by Blow on Head

The state contends Mrs. Meighen died from injuries received when Bluth "dumped" her unconscious form on the floor of her apartment after a Thanksgiving week-end drinking spree.

Associate State Toxicologist C. D. Brooks testified before

Circuit court jury today that death was caused by a blow on the back of Mrs. Meighen's head. He said the blow probably resulted from her head striking a stationary object rather than from her being hit.

He also testified he found numerous bruises on Mrs. Meighen's body.

The state contends the rape occurred while Mrs. Meighen was unconscious. Under Alabama law, this constitutes rape because consent could not be given.

Was Judge Advocate

At the time of the death Bluth was judge advocate—top legal officer—of the Redstone arsenal, a guided missile and rocket development center near here. He also is a former member of the California Bar association.

He had been separated from his wife, mother of their 10 year old son, about three years when he came here last fall. Mrs. Meighen and her husband, Capt. Patrick Meighen, a native of Waynesburg, Pa., came to Huntsville five days after Bluth.

The Meighens consulted Capt. Bluth about dissolving their marriage, which occurred a year after they met in Germany in 1948. Bluth helped his fellow officer move out of the Meighen apartment. Then, according to Bluth's statement, he and Mrs. Meighen kept a date they had made.

Dropped Her on Floor

The state contends Mrs. Meighen "passed out," apparently from too much liquor, on Nov. 27, that Bluth drove her around in a car for several hours in a futile attempt to sober her, that he left her in his car for several more hours while he slept in her apartment, and that at 3 a. m. the next morning he carried the unconscious woman into her apartment and dropped her on the floor.

The state charged that the manner in which Bluth dropped the woman was such that death naturally would result. It was also contended that Bluth then left the apartment knowing Mrs. Meighen was dead and that he attempted to conceal the fact he had been there.

Mrs. Meighen's body was not found until eight days later. It was discovered on Dec. 6 by a postman.

BLUTH TRIAL NEARS JURY AT HUNTSVILLE

State Rests Case In Death Of Polish War Bride

CAPTAIN WON'T TESTIFY

By The United Press

HUNTSVILLE, Ala., May 26.—The strange case aaginst Capt. Marcus Bluth, accused of assaulting and slaying a Polish war bride neared an end Thursday night after the state rested its case on testimony that the legal officer admitted he "most likely" was intimate with the victim.

The state rested its case after calling 17 witnesses. The defense had summoned six attorneys repreenting the Joliet, Ill., lawyer said Captain Bluth would not take the stand to defend himself against rape and manslaughter charges.

Jury May Get Case Today

The prosecution said it will call several rebuttal witnesses after the defense rests and the case probably will reach the jury after final arguments and Judge Elbert Parsons' charge Friday.

Conviction of first degree rape is punishiable by a maximum penalty of death in the electric chair.

Captain Bluth is charged with ravaging and killing exotic, 32-year-old Mrs. Hien Tereza Meighen, wife of a fellow officer at Redstone Arsenal here where guided missile warfare is perfected for the Army.

Mrs. Meighen, a platinum blond who worked as a Polish underground courier during World War II, was found dead in her Huntsville apartment last Dec. 6 about 10 days after she and Captain Bluth spent Thanksgiving week-end celebrating her separation from Capt. Patrick Meighen, of Waynesburg, Penn.

Investigator On Stand

Capt. Richard Gordon, criminal investigator from nearby Fort McClellan, Ala., testified Thursday that Captain Bluth told him he "most likely" had sex relations with Mrs. Meighen the night before she died.

On cross-examination, Captain Gordon admitted he had not questioned Captain Bluth with regard to rape.

Captain Gordon quoted Captain Bluth as saying he did not notify authorities when he feared Mrs. Meighen was dead "because he became panicky."

Reeves Convicted Again; Death Sentence Due Today

By JOHN MORTON

Jeremiah Reeves Jr., 19-year-old Montgomery Negro, was convicted of rape by a circuit court jury here yesterday. The conviction carries the automatic penalty of death.

The sullen, heavyset youth is scheduled to face Special Judge James J. Carter at 2:15 p.m. today for formal sentence.

This will mark the second time Reeves has been convicted of ravishing an attractive Montgomery housewife on July 28, 1952.

The first conviction was reversed by the U.S. Supreme Court late last year. The nation's highest court turned back Reeves' conviction in a brief statement to circuit court officials here after the Alabama Supreme Court had upheld the first conviction, issued Nov. 20, 1952.

The current trial is set for automatic review by this state's highest court.

After the 12-man panel returned its decision yesterday, Reeves' attorneys motioned to set aside the conviction, but Judge Carter denied the move.

The trial began Monday with the selection of an all-white jury from a venire of 56 men. Peter A. Hall, chief counsel for Reeves, moved for mistrial on the grounds Negroes had been "systematically excluded from jury service."

This motion was denied, as were other motions set against the county jury commission, the indictment itself and the selection of local jury venires.

Hall attacked absentee testimony of two Air Force medical officers who were on the stand during the first trial, but Judge Carter denied a move to prevent entry of a transcript of the initial examination.

Reeves' counsel, entered many objections during the proceeding and where they were overruled, took "exception" to them. Court sources believed the Negro lawyer was seeking grounds for further appeal if the Alabama Supreme Court upholds this conviction.

Earlier today, Judge Carter gave a 34-minute charge to the jury before it retired. He outlined the alternatives the jury could select in reaching its decision. The decision makes the death penalty mandatory and Reeves is expected to be sentenced to die in the electric chair.

Circuit Solicitor William F. Thetford had asked the jury to return the death penalty during final argument this morning.

Throughout the trial, defense council had sought to establish Reeves' innocence, along with hammering at the legal points of jury selection, the possibility of a sanity hearing for the defendant, and other issues aimed at freeing him.

When the jury returned its decision, Hall asked the panel be polled. Each member was queried regarding his agreement to the conviction. All jurors concurred in the decision.

Supreme Court sets new execution date

MONTGOMERY, Ala., June 25 — (AP) — The Alabama Supreme Court has reset the date of execution of William Earl Fikes from July 1 to Aug. 26, a court official said Saturday.

The 30-year-old former Marion, Ala., service station attendant was convicted of nighttime burglary of the home of Mrs. Jean Heinz Rockwell, daughter of Selma mayor Chris Heinz.

Peter A. Hall, Birmingham attorney for Fikes, said the U. S. Supreme Court would be asked to review the state court's action.

The Alabama high court acted on an appeal from Dallas County Circuit Court, where Fikes was given the maximum penalty of death for first-degree burglary.

At the time of his trial he already was under a 99-year sentence for rape of another woman. Mrs. Rockwell successfully fought off a burglar who entered her home in the Spring of 1953.

Defense attorneys claimed at the burglary that Fikes' constitutional rights were violated. They sought to have the verdict reversed on grounds that Negroes were systematically excluded from Dallas County juries.

Fikes Given Life After Pleading Guilty To Slaying Of Wife

BESSEMER, Ala. (SNS) — Samuel Fikes, 21-year-old Korean war veteran was sentenced to life imprisonment yesterday after pleading guilty to the May 19 slaying of his pretty 24-year-old estranged wife, Mrs. Ada Anderson Fikes.

He changed his plea from "not guilty" after the charges had been reduced from first degree to second degree murder.

His case was heard by Circuit Judge F. R. Matthews.

State Supreme Court Upholds Death Sentence For Rapist

The Alabama Supreme Court yesterday upheld the death sentence of John Mincy, 32-year-old Negro convicted of rape.

Mincy was convicted of raping a white woman at Whistler, Ala. May 19, 1954 at her home.

The defendant was convicted last Aug. 5 and sentenced to be put to death in the electric chair at Kilby Prison.

Mincy pleaded innocent by reason of insanity, but the court said, the only evidence offered was "that he was absent-minded" . . . and "acted funny."

In finding no reversible error, the high tribunal said the lower court was correct in allowing testimony to be introduced at the trial of Mincy concerning events which took place the day before the offense was committed.

Mincy signed a confession when arrested shortly after the rape was committed.

His attorneys asked the supreme court to reverse the conviction on grounds that the confession introduced at the trial "contains certain statements or allegations which are not of substance . . ."

The defense also claimed the confession was not voluntary and that the lower court erred in allowing testimony to be introduced concerning events which took place the day before the rape was committed.

It was brought out at the trial, Mincy had passed by the victim's house the day prior to the rape while she was in the yard clad in shorts and halter. He asked her for a drink of water and she pointed out the hydrant, saying "help yourself."

In upholding the admissibility of testimony concerning events prior to the act, the supreme court cited a case which held:

"Antecedent circumstances tending to shed light on the transaction or elucidate the facts or show preparation to commit the crime are always admissible in evidence."

In other action yesterday, the Supreme Court backed up with a substitute opinion which reversed the convictian of Jimmie Crawford, Montgomery Negro accused of killing another Negro, Richard Bibb.

The additional ruling yesterday held that testimony by a state toxicologist as to the position of Bibb's body when the fatal pistol shot was fired was purely opinion.

Crawford had claimed Bibb was attacking him. The toxicologist told the court his finds indicated Bibb was lying on the ground when the fatal shot was fired.

WAR BRIDE ASSAULTED, KILLED AUTOPSY SAYS

Expert Reports On Meighen Death At Huntsville

HUNTSVILLE, Ala., March 15. (UP)—A long-awaited autopsy report in the mysterious death of a beautiful Polish war bride showed Tuesday the woman was "sexually molested" and probably killed by a blow on the head.

The report from C. D. Brooks, assistant state toxicologist, said there was no evidence of drugs found in the body of blond Mrs. Helen Meighen, of Warsaw, Poland.

The State had charged that a former legal officer at the Army's supersecret Redstone Missile Test Center, criminally assaulted, beat and possibly poisoned the woman.

Mr. Brooks said there was "definite evidence of sexual molestation," but that the fatal head wound could have been caused "by a fall backwards, with the head striking the floor with considerable force."

Capt. Marcus Bluth, former judge advocate at Redstone Arsenal here, has been indicted by a Grand Jury for first degree murder in the death of the 32-year-old woman.

Completion of the autopsy report means the State can proceed with its case and bring Bluth to trial.

However, Defense Attorney Ralph Ford said he would require additional time in which to prepare his case, so no actual trial date has been set. Bluth is at liberty on $7,500 bail.

Bluth, a friend of both Mrs. Meighen and her estranged husband, Redstone Arsenal Capt. Patrick Meighen, denied killing the comely woman. He said he went out with her after the couple had decided on a divorce and Captain Meighen, of Waynesburg, Penn., had moved out of the apartment. Bluth said the couple discussed their divorce plans with him.

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Negro Rapist Faces Retrial At Month End

11 Defendants Get Up To Three Years After Guilty Pleas

Jeremiah Reeves Jr., Negro convicted and sentenced to death on two indictments of criminally attacking a white woman and one for robbery here, will be retried May 30 in Montgomery Circuit Court.

New trial date was set yesterday by Judge Eugene W. Carter.

Reeves' death sentence in the earlier trial was reversed by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Judge Carter drew a venire of 50 regular and 50 special jurors on the first day of this criminal court term.

Ten defendants, charged with capital cases ranging from robbery to murder, pleaded not guilty and their trials were set May 30.

Besides Reeves they were Jimmie Crawford, murder; Albert Brown, robbery; Charlie Gilbert, murder; Mary Ella Leonard, murder and assault to murder; Isaac Mitchell, murder; James Neal, murder; Edward Rogers, arson and murder; Sterling Rogers, robbery, and Roy Rogers, robbery.

Eleven persons were sentenced to terms up to three years on guilty pleas.

They were: Frances Black, assault to murder, two years; Walter Bryant, two indictments for false pretenses, two years in each case; Henry Darby, grand larceny, two years; C. W. Edmondson, false pretenses and forgery, 15 months and the forgery charge dismissed; James King, burglary, two years; Willie G. Moye Jr., burglary and grand larceny, 18 months; Tyrus McCloud, grand larceny, two years; Nathaniel Robinson, grand larceny, 13 months; Willie James Rollins, burglary and grand larceny, 13 months and two additional years on the same charge; Alex Witcher, three years for burglary and a burglary and grand larceny charge was killed, and Mayk Perry, manufacturing illegal liquor, 13 months.

Pleading guilty and asking probation were Frank Calhoun, charged with transporting non-tax-paid liquor and carrying a concealed weapon; Willie Clark, burglary and grand larceny; Robert E. Lee Greene, grand larceny; Andrew Howard, burglary and grand larceny; James Humphrey, grand larceny; Leslie Lee Jackson, burglary and grand larceny, LeCroy, false pretense; Johnny V. Lott Jr., conversion of rented property; Arthur Lee Patterson, distilling illegal liquor; Catherine Robinson, forgery; Henry Sharp, grand larceny; Eddie Walker, assault to murder; Johnny Edward Yarn, burglary and grand larceny; Mack Rudolph, transporting; Herbert Brown, grand larceny (granted); William Judkins, transporting, and Charles Vaughn, transporting.

Attorney For Fikes To Appeal Death Sentence

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — (SNS) — Attorneys for William Earl Fikes, a 30-year-old former Marion filling station attendant sentenced to die in the electric chair, Friday, July 1, on convictions of nighttime burglary with the intent to rape the daughter of Selma, Alabama's mayor, have announced that they will file a motion for re-hearing of the case within the next ten days.

Fikes lost his two-year fight for acquittal and freedom when the Alabama Supreme Court denied his appeal, May 12. He is represented by Attorney Peter A. Hall and Orzell Billingsley, Jr., of Birmingham. Trial was held December 7, 1953.

In denying the appeal, the state tribunal upheld the conviction of Fikes returned by the Dallas County Circuit Court.

Fikes was sentenced to die in the electric chair while already under a 99-year sentence for rape of another white woman.

Attorneys Hall and Billingsley said that, following the motion for a re-hearing on the state level, an appeal of Fikes' conviction will be filed in the United States Supreme Court.

Fikes was convicted of nighttime burglary of the home of Mrs. Jean Heinz Rockwell, daughter of Selma Mayor Chris Heinz, April 24, 1953.

In testimony in the trial court, Mrs. Rockwell said she was surprised in her bedroom after she had retired for the night. She said she grappled with the attacker and managed to snatch a knife from him before he fled.

She said the defendant threatened her life after breaking into the apartment where she lived.

Dallas Circuit Judge W. E. Callen dismissed an earlier burglary indictment against Fikes after the defense claimed irregularities in Dallas county jury rolls.

The Supreme Court said the defense failed to produce evidence to support its claim that Negroes were systematically excluded from jury duty.

On November 19, 1953, Fikes filed a motion to quash the indictment, alleging in substance that he was a member of the Negro race, a citizen of Alabama and of the United States that Negroes were systematically excluded from grand juries organized in Dallas County, solely because of their race or color, thereby denying to the defendant due process and equal protection of the laws guaranteed to him by the Constitution and laws of Alabama and the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution.

That no Negro served on the grand jury which returned the afore said indictment against him in this cause; that when the indictment was returned, the census of the United States showed that the male population of Dallas County over the age of twenty-one number 13,966, of which 6,040 were whites, and that the Negroes over twenty-one years numbered 7,956.

On the same day, Fikes filed another motion to quash the indictment, alleging that it was based solely upon an alleged confession of guilt which was "extorted and illegally obtained from defendant by and through force and violence or threats of force and violence, coercion, torture and brutality by officers and detectives of the City of Selma and of Dallas County, Alabama;

"That prior to the return of the indictment, defendant was arrested without warrant on May 16, 1953, was never taken before a magistrate but was held in the city jail of Dallas County for several days without a formal charge and without being permitted to confer with counsel, his parents or friends, and was subsequently taken to Kilby prison in Montgomery where he remained until the present time, and where he wa snot allowed to confer with counsel, his parent or friends until he had been indicted in this cause and after he had been subjected to days of uninterrupted questioning by officers of the City of Selma and of Dallas County."

Upon denying the appeal, the State Supreme Court said in its 19-page written opinion:

"The indictment properly set out the charge, and the record shows that the requirements of law were complied with in respect to it. It was signed by the solicitor and endorsed by the foreman of the grand jury, with the caption required by law, and filed in open court in Dallas County on November 12, 1953. Defendant was arraigned, pleaded not guilty and not guilty by reason of insanity, and was represented on arraignment and throughout the trial by attorneys. The court set the date of trial for December 7, 1953, and drew a special venire as required by law. No question is raised in respect to such matters.

"It appeared from the evidence submitted on the motion that on June 2, 1953, this defendant had been indicted in several cases of a similar nature, including the one now on trial.

"The evidence on the instant motion showed that there was a jury roll dated "1942 to 1951" and another from "1951 to 1953". The grand jury which returned the indictment of June 1953 was drawn from the box based on the roll of "1951 to 1953"; although there were some cards in the box of persons whose names were not on the roll. The jury commissioners had not always been careful to put all the names on the jury roll; and had put some cards of names in the box not on the roll. On that particular jury roll there were shown to be eight Negroes.

"The evidence does not show that some Negroes as well as whites who were competent to serve and not exempt were not put on the roll. It may be Negroes were systematically omitted prior to the roll made in October, 1953, but that was not true in making up that particular roll.

"We have examined with care the entire record and the exceptions noted as well as the legality of all the evidence offered against defendant regardless of whether exception was noted or not, and whether or not assigned as error. We find no error of the trial court which was injurious to the defendant.

"The oral charge of the court and those given as requested by the defendant correctly and intelligently covered every aspect of the law involved, including the burden of proof, the elements of the offense, the plea of insanity, and character evidence. This completely covered the few charges which the court refused.

"We find no reversible error, and the judgment should be affirmed.

"The foregoing opinion was prepared by Foster, Supernumerary Justice of this Court, while serving on it at the request of the Chief Justice under the authority of Title 13, section 32, Code, and was adopted by the Court as its opinion.

"Affirmed.

"Livingston, C. J., Simpson, Stakely and Goodwyn, JJ., concur. Lawson and Merrill, JJ, concur specially as indicated. Mayfield, J., concurs in result.

In concurring specially, Justice Lawson wrote:

"I cannot agree with that part of the opinion holding that the defendant was not entitled to testify as to the facts and circumstances concerning an alleged confession or confessions which the State introduced under the circumstances shown in the court's opinion without thereby subjecting himself to cross-examination as to matters pertaining to his guilt or innocence, sanity or insanity.

"While I am not willing to say that the trial court should be reversed in this particular case because of its ruling on this point, I wish to record my position concerning that ruling.

"Merrill, J., concurs in the foregoing views."

NEGRO IS PSYCHOTIC, HOSPITAL REPORTS

Death Sentence For Assault Was Set Aside

LITTLE ROCK, April 26.—(AP)—A State Hospital spokesman Tuesday said that Samuel Alford, Jefferson County Negro once convicted of rape, was "psychotic."

Alford's death sentence for criminal assault of a white woman was set aside by the Arkansas Supreme Court.

He has been at the State Hospital here for 11 months as a mental case after being transferred fom the death cell at Tucker Prison Farm.

Release in Alford's case would mean a return to jail and a probable new trial at Pine Bluff on the capital offense still pending.

At Pine Bluff, Prosecuting Atty. Pat Mullis said that if Alford is released, he "definitely" will be re-tried.

By law, he may not be tried as long aslong as hospital psychiatrists consider him mentally unbalanced.

"He has not responded too well to treatment and there are no plans for release," the hospital physician said.

The Supreme Court granted Alford a new trial on March 15, 1954, and he was transferred to the State Hospital on May 22, 1954.

RAPE OF WIDOW, 76, BRINGS DEATH TERM

PRESCOTT, Ark., Oct. 5 (AP)—A jury Monday sentenced Leo Scarber, 35, Negro, to death in the electric chair for raping a 76-year-old white woman near Willisville, Ark., on Aug. 28.

Scarber pleaded guilty and the jury was empaneled to fix punishment. The jury could have sentenced Scarber to life imprisonment or reduced the charge and set some lesser punishment.

The prosecuting witness, a widow, said Scarber broke into the house where she lived alone and raped her after beating her and threatening to kill her.

8942

Sentence Is Vacated In Rape Attempt Case

The U. S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia has vacated a 5-to-15 year sentence imposed on Oliver H. Fooks, 25, colored, in 1953 for the attempted rape-robbery of a 20-year-old woman.

A court order on file yesterday revealed that the appellate court has remanded the case to the U. S. District Court for the District of Columbia, ordering a hearing to determine the mental competency of Fooks at the time of his trial.

If Fooks is found to have been mentally competent at the time, he will be resentenced. If he is found to have been incompetent, a new trial must be scheduled, providing he is currently found competent.

The motion to remand the case was made by United States Attorney Leo A. Rover and an assistant, Lewis Carroll. The motion said authorities at the medical center for Federal prisoners at Springfield, Mo., have certified probable cause that Fooks was mentally incompetent at the time of trial.

A motion by Fooks for a mental examination had been denied in the lower court.

Ex-Convict Faces Electric Chair in Assault Conviction

Robert Clark Floyd, 43-year-old ex-convict, was found guilty in Fairfax Circuit Court yesterday of raping an 11-year-old girl.

Judge Paul Brown, who heard the case without a jury at the defendant's request, deferred sentence until May 9 to allow time for a probation officer to investigate Floyd's past.

"I'm not referring this to a probation officer because I have any idea of giving this man probation," Judge Brown told defense attorney John Alexander. Floyd can get the electric chair. The minimum sentence is five years.

Sought Dismissal

Mr. Alexander's defense consisted entirely of a motion to dismiss the charge. He argued that the Commonwealth failed to prove the girl was raped. He said Dr. O. K. Stewart, Jr., who examined the victim, could not positively state that she had been raped.

Dr. Stewart testified that the girl's injuries made it impossible to examine her thoroughly. Assistant Commonwealth Attorney Bernard Jennings placed in evidence a confession in which Floyd admitted the offense, describing how he held a length of clothesline tightly around the girl's neck as he assaulted her.

Floyd, who cannot read or write, had signed the confession with his X mark, which was not notarized.

In the confession Floyd said he had been drinking the night of December 4 when the offense occurred and went to the house to get a shovel. He had worked as a laborer for the girl's stepfather, a building contractor.

He said he hated the girl's stepfather and wanted to kill him. He claimed that the girl's stepfather owed him money.

Caring for Children

The assault occurred while the girl was caring for a younger brother and sister at her Lake Barcroft home.

According to testimony, Floyd fired several bullets around the house after he got inside, and then attacked the girl.

Floyd was captured December 29 by Falls Church police, and it was learned that he had been hiding in a narrow crawl space beneath a new home less than a mile from the scene of the crime. Residents of the new home, an elderly couple, were unaware of his presence.

Floyd Gets Life In Assault on Fairfax Girl, 11

Robert Clark Floyd yesterday was sentenced to life in prison in Fairfax Circuit Court for the rape of an 11-year-old girl at her Lake Barcroft home last December 4.

The 43-year-old illiterate construction worker escaped the electric chair only because of his low mental standing, Fairfax Circuit Judge Paul E. Brown declared as he imposed the sentence.

Floyd was on probation from the State Penitentiary on a grand larceny charge when the rape occurred. His victim was the daughter of a Lake Barcroft contractor who employed Floyd.

Floyd was convicted of the rape charge by Judge Brown after a trial two months ago. Floyd and his court-appointed attorney, John Alexander, waived a jury. Sentencing was deferred until yesterday, awaiting a probation report.

"From the facts and from the probation report it is evident this man should not be allowed to harm society again," declared Commonwealth's Attorney Robert C. Fitzgerald.

The little girl was attacked by Floyd while she was home babysitting with a younger brother and sister, Fairfax County police reported.

D. C. Man Cleared Of Rape Charge

A charge of rape against a Washington store clerk was dismissed yesterday by Montgomery County Peoples Court Judge Einar B. Christensen.

The clerk, Herman H. Hornsby, 22, of the 7300 block of Eighth street N.W., had been charged on complaint of a 20-year-old WAC stationed at the Forest Glen annex of Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

The girl said she had been raped last Wednesday night in Hornsby's car while it was parked on a lane off Newport Mill road near Wheaton after she had accepted a ride with him.

Judge Christensen said that evidence presented by the girl was too weak to hold Hornsby for grand jury action.

Penalty Set Here First In 5 Years

Execution Date To Be Fixed Tues. For Defendant in Boiler Room Attack

A District Court jury yesterday found a 20-year-old Spartanburg (S.C.) man guilty of raping a Washington department store employe and recommended the death penalty.

The special recommendation by the panel of five women and seven men makes it mandatory on Judge Alexander Holtzoff to sentence Andrew Roosevelt Mallory to die in the electrical chair. It was the first time since February, 1950, that a jury has imposed the death penalty on a rapist. The jurist said he will sentence Mallory on Tuesday.

Mallory had been in Washington about six weeks, visiting a half-brother at 1223 12th st. nw., when the offense took place on April 7, 1954.

According to the married, 38-year-old victim, the assault occurred in the boiler room of the apartment building in which she lived. She testified she was grabbed and dragged into the boiler room and attacked.

Assistant United States Attorney Arthur McLaughlin put in evidence a confession signed by Mallory the day after the assault. However, the youth took the witness stand and denied the offense. He testified he did not remember ever giving police a confession.

Attorneys William Bryant and William Tinney based Mallory's defense on insanity. Dr. Joseph M. Rom, a psychiatrist, testified he examined Mallory three months after the crime and that the youth was of unsound mind.

Government psychiatrists did not examine him until eight months afterward and were not called to testify by McLaughlin.

Approximately a half-hour before the jury rendered its verdict it came back to the courtroom to ask Judge Holtzoff several questions. The jury was given a negative answer by the judge on whether it could be certain Mallory would be imprisoned for life if found guilty without a recommendation.

Judge Holtzoff explained the maximum sentence in a rape case, if the jury doesn't make the death recommendation, is 10 to 30 years imprisonment.

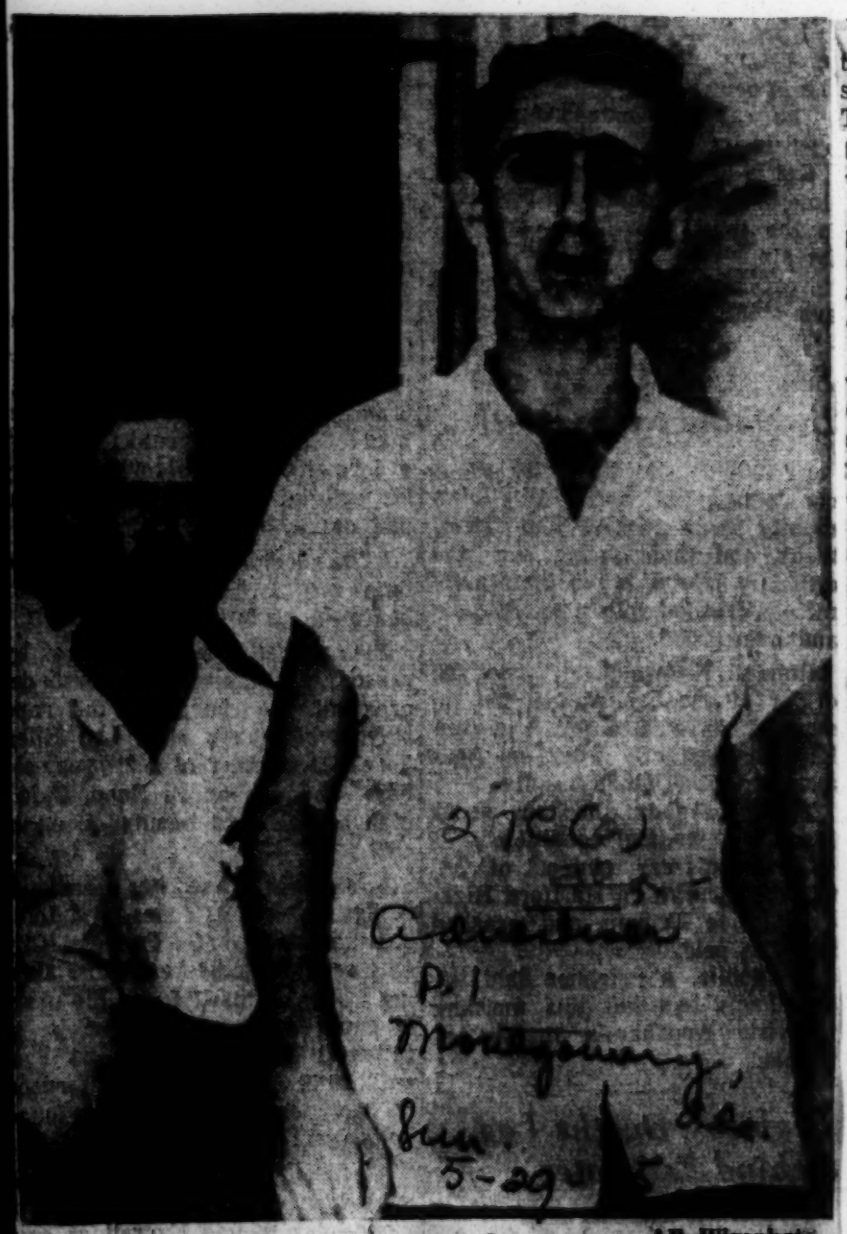
$10,000 Bond Set in Attack On Girl, 15

Ernest Thacker, 30, of 125 W. Reed ave., Alexandria, was held under $10,000 bond yesterday on a charge of statutory rape of a 15-year-old Alexandria girl, who is now pregnant.

Thacker, who appeared in the Alexandria Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, is on furlough from the Western State Hospital at Staunton, it was testified. Police said he had been committed to the hospital in January, 1953, as mentally incapable, hostile and threatening.

Thacker was arrested Thursday. Police said he entered the home of the girl last February 24 and 25 while she was babysitting with younger brothers and sisters.

Police said Thacker forced her to a second-floor bedroom, where he raped her. The girl was too frightened to tell her mother what had happened, according to police.



AP Wirephoto

HEADED FOR CHAIR—George Lowell Everett, 20, was found guilty of the murder of Mrs. Lou Ellen Jones and was sentenced to the electric chair, yesterday in Panama City, Fla. An unidentified deputy sheriff accompanies Everett out of court after hearing the verdict.

Panama City Jury Orders Death For Dothan Slayer

By STAN ATKINS

PANAMA CITY, Fla., May 28 (AP)—George Lowell Everett was convicted today of first degree murder in the rape slaying of a former Oklahoma high school beauty queen.

There was no recommendation for mercy, making the death penalty mandatory.

Circuit Judge E. Clay Lewis, Jr. passed sentence immediately. Everett showed no emotion but his mother, Mrs. Charles Ferrell, Columbus, Ga., wept as the sentence was imposed.

Later, in his cell, Everett told newsmen, "I have nothing to say. That's the way it went." The youth had told a reporter prior to start of the trial, "I'll deserve whatever I get."

The jury of 12 married men reported the verdict at 3:03 p.m. (CST). It had received the case at 2:05 p.m. The trial began Monday.

The sentence is subject to review by the Florida Supreme Court. Gov. Leroy Collins will set the week of the execution and the warden at Raiford State Prison will select the date and time.

A member of Everett's family said there had been no decision as to whether the case would be appealed.

There was no demonstration when the verdict was announced. Judge Lewis had warned the spectators in the packed courtroom any making any demonstration would be arrested immediately.

The defense had entered no denial Everett strangled and raped the pretty wife of an Air Force sergeant in her modest duplex home the morning of Jan. 18. Everett gave himself up at the Dothan, Ala., police station the night of Jan. 26.

Chief Def. Atty. Earl Duncan told the jury in his final argument: "There is no doubt in my mind that this boy did the horrible thing for which he is charged."

But Duncan contended repeatedly the 20-year-old Dothan, Ala., youth was mentally defective. He asked Everett be acquitted on his insanity plea and sent to a mental institution.

"I know you would not want this boy turned loose on society," the defense said. "Protect society by putting him away where he can't do it again.

"I don't think he deserves another chance."

The prosecution, headed by State Atty. J. Frank Adams, demanded the death penalty. Adams, a former state senator noted for his colorful summing up of criminal cases, told the jury:

"This defendant deserves—more than any I have ever seen or heard—to go to the electric chair."

Everett had pleaded innocent by reason of insanity to a first degree murder charge in the rape slaying of blonde Mrs. Lou Ellen Jones, 21, mother of a 2½-year-old boy. She was an El Reno, Okla., high school band beauty queen in 1951.

Mrs. Jones and her husband, S. Sgt. Joseph R. Jones, and their son had moved to Panama City only seven months before the slaying. Jones himself found the nearly nude body of his wife when he returned home from duty at Tyndall Air Force Base the afternoon of Jan. 18. Their son was found unharmed.

A signed statement introduced in evidence by the prosecution Wednesday quoted Everett as saying he was surprised by Mrs. Jones after he had broken into her home in search of money.

He was quoted as saying he knocked her out with a vase, stabbed her twice in the back and strangled her with a piece of electric cord cut from a toaster. The document further quoted him as saying he raped the girl as she was dying.

Dr. C. H. Denser and Dr. Ervin T. Clark of the Florida Mental Hospital at Chattahoochee testified they had examined Everett and found him legally sane. The psychiatrists said he knew right from wrong. They had been named by the court as a sanity commission.

The defense presented testimony to the effect Everett was a mentally unbalanced child who ran away from home and various schools from an early age. They said he stole repeatedly and never showed remorse.

Denser told the court Everett was "utterly selfish" and took whatever he wanted. He and Clark said running away and stealing were not of themselves symptoms of insanity.

Testimony was presented that Everett, a native of Columbus, served three terms in the Georgia Training School for Boys for juvenile thefts. He entered the Air Force in 1952 but was given an undesirable discharge the following year after he had gone AWOL three times.

He was sentenced to two years in 1953 on a federal car theft charge. Testimony showed he stole another car from a relative shortly after his release from the first term.

He was placed on three years probation at Montgomery, Ala., last October on the second charge and paroled to C. E. Sloop, Dothan electrical contractor and husband of a cousin of Everett.

Among the defense witnesses were Everett's stepfather and mother. Ferrell owns a Columbus liquor store and formerly operated a loan business there.

Mrs. Ferrell testified she and Everett's father separated in 1938 when the boy was three. She said she married Ferrell five years later.

'Mystery' Doctor Sought

Walter Lee Irvin Case May Backfire

By ALBERT J. DUNMORE

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—The fate of Walter Lee Irvin, which is to be decided by the State Parole Commission and Governor LeRoy Collins, Wednesday, June 23, may be determined by the ability of newspaperman C. A. Irvin to produce an as yet unknown and unnamed doctor.

Irvin, veteran newspaperman, who has been interested in the case since it first broke six years ago, insists that he will be able to produce the doctor whose information may turn an entirely new light on this widely publicized case.

Last Wednesday, at a meeting of the commission in Tallahassee, at which time the decision on a plea for clemency on the part of the condemned Walter Lee Irvin, was to have been announced, C. A. Irvin, no relation to the condemned man, appeared as "amicaes curiae" (friend of the court) and introduced the information relative to the existence of the "mystery" doctor.

IRVIN STATED that he had information that would lead to the location of the doctor who had examined the young woman involved in the rape case in which five men were convicted in 1949.

The newspaperman claimed that the doctor had found no evidence that she had been criminally attacked.

It had been noted previously in the case that the prosecution had never produced medical evidence that the victim had been raped in face of the fact that the five Groveland boys had been convicted on this count.

Governor Collins had told newsmen following Irvin's statement that he was interested in this point and asked the parole commission to investigate.

• • •

IRVIN WAS later invited to discuss the matter with an investigator, but he failed to do so saying he was too busy to make the appointment.

Later in Tampa, the newsmen told other members of the press that he was doing all in his power to track down sources he felt were reliable and felt he would have something definite to report by Wednesday when the commission was scheduled to meet again.

In the meantime, Atty. Paul C. Perkins of Orlando, attorney for the condemned Irvin, told the Courier that he had not been aware that the newspaperman was going to make the presentation to the Governor and the commission.

"I had been informed that the

commission would meet and act on my appeal for clemency for Walter Lee Irvin. I was also informed that the case was not to be discussed any further. I did not know that C. A. Irvin was going to present this evidence before the group."

• • •

IRVIN STATED that he saw no reason for checking his action with any other source.

"I am doing all in my power to see that justice is brought. It appears to me that sources of information available to me are equally available to the pardon board and to any other persons interested in seeing that the truth is brought to light."

Irvin reiterated in a telephone interview with the Courier that he felt he was on the right track and was certain that he would be able to produce effective evidence before the commission by the time they met Wednesday.

In the meantime, Walter Lee Irvin waits and hopes, continuing to insist that the charges placed against him were unjust and unfair. In spite of previous attempts to make deals and his narrow escape from death when shot down while handcuffed by Sheriff Willis McCall of Lake County, Irvin continues to insist that he is innocent.

Many forces have worked to save him. None has succeeded in getting the Florida authorities to act favorably in his behalf.

— BIGGEST and the BEST —

Pardon Board Acts

Irvin Decision Again Deferred

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Walter Lee Irvin, doomed to die in the electric chair as one of the convicted Groveland rapists, will have to continue to wait for action on his appeal for commutation after the state pardon board announced it would defer action again on his case.

The delay followed a request by Parole Commission Chairman Francis Bridges to permit further inquiry into the case.

"A man's life is at stake and we want to be positive," Bridges announced in making the request.

It is believed that the commission will further investigate reports that there is a physician who examined the purported rape victim shortly after the incident and had reported that there was no evidence of rape.

One notable omission in the trial was the prosecution's failure to present medical evidence that the accusing young housewife had been criminally attacked.

Last week, C. A. Irvin, a veteran newspaperman now working for a Tampa weekly, told the commission that he had evidence that would lead to the identification of the physician.

Other persons connected with the case stated they were also aware of the existence of the physician. This point may determine the fate of Irvin, who has been imprisoned since the incident in 1949.

Irvin at one time narrowly missed death when shot by Sheriff Willis McCall.

Dothan man seeks new trial—

Court calls for defense details in assault-slayer's appeal

PANAMA CITY, Fla., June 25—(AP)—Attorneys for a convicted rape slayer are under court order to supply detailed information Saturday about a part of their motion for a new trial.

Circuit Judge R. Clay Lewis Jr. directed Wednesday that attorneys for George Lowell Everett, 20, present the bill of particulars in answer to a motion by the prosecution.

Everett, of Dothan, Ala., was convicted May 28 of strangling pretty Mrs. Lou Ellen Jones, 21, in her apartment Jan. 18. He was sentenced to death in the electric chair but no date has been set for the execution.

Everett pleaded innocent by reason of insanity.

THE DEFENSE had asked for a new trial on grounds that one of the 12 jurymen, Henry Corbin, "openly and in the presence of others said he might not be legally qualified to serve as a juror. He nevertheless intended to serve as a juror."

Judge Lewis ordered the defense to present more information on that contention, including the time, place and names and addresses of persons who allegedly heard Corbin make the remarks.

The motion for retrial also contended that Corbin, a prison guard, was disqualified from serving as a juror because he allegedly had once been committed to a mental hospital.

It claimed he was still legally insane because he had not started proceeedings to have himself declared sane.

The motion also contended that Corbin was under indictment for grand larceny in neighboring Washington County.

A hearing on the retrial motion is scheduled June 30.

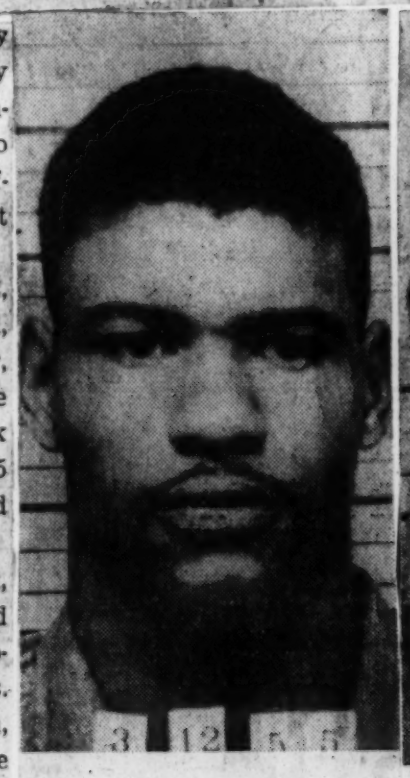
Have You Seen These Men?

'Most Wanted' Tag Is Slapped On Pair Hunted in Rape Case

Two Negroes indicted by the Dade county grand jury for the rape of a white woman were added Sunday to the Dade county sheriff's office list of its "10 most wanted men."

They are Leroy Walter, 32, five feet, eight inches tall, 150 pounds, with black hair, maroon eyes, and George Edward Armstrong, 19, six feet, one inch tall, 185 pounds, with black hair and maroon eyes.

Walter does farm work, and Armstrong has worked as a laborer around automobile service departments. The rape occurred in March, 1955. Anyone knowing the whereabouts of these men should call the sheriff's office at 82-8423.



GEORGE E. ARMSTRONG
... sought by police



LEROY WALTER
... wanted for rape

Plea Made In Florida To Save Life Of Irvin By Atty. Thurgood Marshall

Tallahassee, Fla., Feb. 7, 1955—A plea to save the life of Walter Lee Irvin, twice convicted and sentenced to death for rape, a crime he swore he never committed, was made today to the Florida Board of Pardons by Paul Perkins, Fla. Attorney who along with NAACP Legal Defense Attorneys have fought for the past six years to save Irvin from the electric chair. The final plea was made in a petition for clemency which asked the Florida Board of Pardons, headed by the Governor, to commute Irvin's death sentence to life imprisonment.

On January 10, the United States Supreme Court turned down a request of the lawyers to review the case after it had granted a stay to hear further argument based on the fact that Irvin was not given a fair and impartial trial. It was the third time Irvin's case was taken to the United States Supreme Court.

The refusal on the part of the Supreme Court to review the case allowed death in the electric chair to close in on the last surviving defendant in the now famous Groveland Case.

Irvin and three other Negro youths were accused and convicted of raping a white farm wife on July 6, 1949. One youth was shot to death before he ever reached the courtroom, another was killed on a lonely road by the sheriff after the United States Supreme Court had ordered a new trial, and the fourth youth is now serving life imprisonment on the Florida chain gang.

Irvin, too, was shot by the sheriff on that lonely road, but lived to tell the story.

In the plea for clemency, Thurgood Marshall, Director-Counsel of Legal Defense, confirmed in a sworn affidavit a report circulated at the second trial in 1932 that the State Attorney, Jess Hunter, tried to make a deal with Irvin whereby if he pleaded guilty he would be given life instead of the chair.

Just prior to the second trial which took place between February 11 and [illegible] Mr. Marshall said in his affidavit, the State Attorney told him that if Irvin pleaded guilty the prosecutor would "recommend to the court a penalty less severe than capital punishment."

"In the presence of counsel associated with me and James Shepherd, a brother of Samuel Shepherd, who had been Irvin's co-defendant and who was also Irvin's brother-in-law, I informed Irvin of the offer," Mr. Marshall declared. "I told him that the charge of rape is one of the most difficult to defend even for an innocent man. I further informed him that he would have to take into account the fact that a public opinion poll which we had taken on his behalf revealed a great deal of community sentiment against him which would probably have an effect—at least subconsciously—upon the jurors."

Irvin stated that he could not lie and say he raped the woman when he did not do it, Mr. Marshall revealed.

"During the trial, the State Attorney informed me that the offer was open up until the case went to the jury," Mr. Marshall declared in his signed affidavit. "I informed Irvin of this fact but he did not change his decision."

The clemency plea asked the Florida Board of Pardons to commute Irvin's sentence to life because the State was willing at an earlier time to settle for a less severe punishment.

Pardon Board Gets Irvin's final plea

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — A twice condemned youth, who once saved his life by playing possum (pretending to be dead under the smoking pistol of a hate-filled white sheriff) will make his last plea for clemency here on March 16.

He is Walter Lee Irvin, whose final appeal for commutation of the death sentence for an alleged criminal attack on a white woman comes up before the Florida Cabinet Pardon Board, next Wednesday.

The board, last week, received the recommendation against clemency for the condemned man from the State Parole Commission; and it is customarily guided by the Parole Commission's recommendations.

ON JAN. 10, the U.S. Supreme Court turned down a request of the lawyers to review the case after it had granted a stay to hear further argument based on the fact that Irvin was not given a fair and impartial trial.

It was the third time Irvin's case was taken to the Supreme Court.

One youth was shot to death before he ever reached the courtroom; another was killed on a lonely road by the sheriff after the Supreme Court had ordered a new trial; and the fourth youth is now serving life imprisonment on the Florida chain gang.

Irvin, too, was shot by the sheriff on that lonely road, but because he "played possum," lived to tell the story.

* * *

A NUMBER of people in Florida are not convinced that Irvin is guilty. A delegation, including some white ministers, is making a direct appeal to Gov. LeRoy Collins and the Pardon Board to commute his sentence to life.

This is on the grounds that if he is electrocuted and the truth ultimately comes out there will be no way to rectify the mistake.

"The crime of rape is horrible—but it will be worse if an innocent man dies for a crime he did not commit," is the opinion of the St. Petersburg, Flordia Times, which sent reporters into Lake County to make a painstaking investigation of this case right after it occurred in 1949. On the basis of their findings, there is great doubt that Irvin is guilty.

The Times believes there is so much doubt that the governor and the Pardon Board can, in all good conscience accede to the petition to spare Irvin's life.

BRIEFLY, a young Lake County housewife claimed that she was abducted from her husband, driven into the woods some miles away and raped at gunpoint by four young colored men. Times reporters found several glaring flaws in the state's case. One: the man having the gun introduced as state's evidence was in jail in another town at the time the young woman says the attack occurred. Two: there was grave doubt of positive identification. Three: there was never any medical evidence introduced at the trial to show that criminal attack had taken place.

The NAACP, which has conducted the legal defense of Irvin for six years, has confirmed a report that was circulated at the man's second trial in 1952 that the state's attorney, Jess Hunter, had tried to make a deal with Irvin whereby he would be given life instead of the chair if he pleaded guilty.

This Irvin refused to do, saying: "Why should I lie and say I raped the woman when I did not do it?"

Youth Pleads Innocent in Rape Slaying

An Atlantan's 20-year-old son pleaded innocent Friday to a murder charge in the rape slaying of a former Oklahoma beauty at Panama City, Fla.

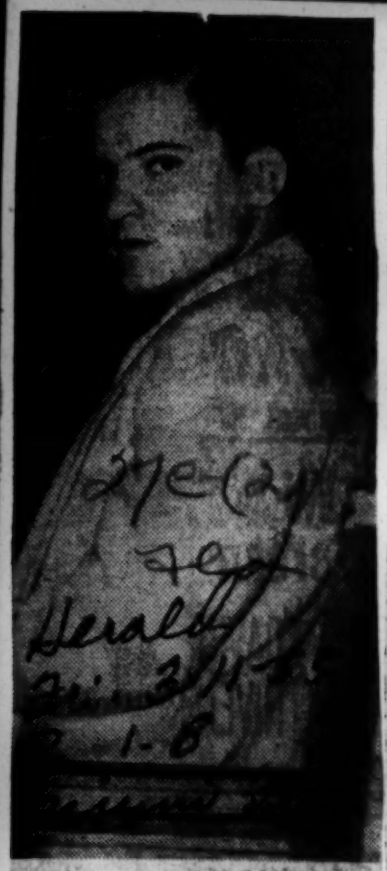
The youth, George Lowell Everett of Decatur, Ala., entered the plea of innocent by reason of temporary insanity through his attorney at an unannounced hearing before Circuit Judge E. Clay Lewis Jr. in Panama City.

Everett's stepfather and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Ferrell of Columbus, were present at the meeting. His father, C. L. Everett of 1001 Curran St., NW, was not present.

Judge Lewis had postponed a previous arraignment because neither parent was present as required by Florida law.

The defendant has signed a statement admitting he stabbled, strangled and raped the Panama City housewife last Jan. 18 when she caught him rifling her home, according to Sheriff M. J. Daffin.

Everett's court-appointed attorney, Earl Duncan, sad he planned to request a change of venue because of wide publicity given the slaying. Judge Lewis has set the trial for May 23.



—Herald Staff Photo
WALTER LEONA
... smiled after verdict

Leona Convicted Of Assault

Walter J. Leona, 23-year-old tree trimmer, was found guilty of raping a 7-year-old girl by a 12-man jury in Criminal court Thursday.

Their recommendation of mercy saved him from death in the electric chair.

Leona smiled broadly in relief as he heard the mercy recommendation.

He did not take the witness stand during the trial to deny the story of the chubby little blonde victim, whose testimony was not shaken by long cross examination.

The trial had been under way since Monday before Judge Pat Cannon.

The assault occurred near the girl's home in the Shadowlawn school area of the Northeast section.

Judge Cannon did not immediately set a date for passing sentence.

Under the verdict Leona can draw any sentence up to and including a life term in prison.

Accused Rape Slayer Pleads Innocent In Panama City Case

PANAMA CITY, Fla., March 11 (AP)—George Lowell Everett, 20, today pleaded innocent to the rape slaying of the pretty wife of an Air Force sergeant and trial date was set for May 23.

Earl Duncan, court-appointed attorney for the Dothan, Ala., youth, asked Circuit Judge E. Clay Lewis Jr., to delay the trial because of "the high passion and prejudice prevailing in this circuit."

Lewis said he would hear arguments on that motion April 14. He also gave the prosecution until April 30 to file rebuttal arguments.

Everett pleaded innocent by reason of temporary insanity at the brief, unannounced arraignment.

He is charged with stabbing, strangling and raping Mrs. Lou Ellen Jones, 21, in her home the morning of Jan. 18. Her nearly nude body was discovered by her husband, S. Sgt. Joseph R. Jones, on his return that afternoon from duty at Tyndall Air Force Base.

Her 2 1-2-year-old son was playing nearby, unharmed.

Everett was arrested in Dothan Jan. 27. Sheriff M. J. Daffin said he signed a statement admitting he killed and raped Mrs. Jones, a former El Reno, Okla., high school band queen, when she returned home unexpectedly. He was quoted as saying he had broken into the house in search of money.

Everett's mother and stepfather, Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Ferrell of Columbus, Ga., were present at today's hearing. His father, C. L. Everett of Atlanta, did not appear.

The arraignment originally was scheduled for Tuesday, but Lewis postponed it because Everett's parents were not in the courtroom. The judge said Florida law requires defendants under 21 be accompanied by their parents when filing a plea.

Everett was returned to an undisclosed jail where he has been held since shortly after his arrest. He had been living with a distant relative in Dothan after being paroled last year from a federal prison where he had been serving a sentence for car theft.

Judge Lewis said all precautions were being taken to protect Everett. He added that the reason the defendant was placed in another jail was that the Panama City jail was now being remodeled.

Accused Dothan Lad Gets Sanity Check In Florida

PANAMA CITY, Fla., April 14 (AP)—Two psychiatrists were named today to determine the legal sanity of [illegible] Dothan, Ala., youth under a murder charge in the rape slaying of the pretty wife of an Air Force sergeant.

Circuit Judge E. Clay Lewis Jr., appointed the sanity commission at the request of State Atty. [illegible]. Those named were Drs. Erwin T. Clark and C. H. Denser of the staff of the Florida State Mental Hospital at Chattahoochee, Fla.

Lewis overruled a motion by defense Atty. Earl Duncan seeking a postponement of the scheduled May 23 start of the trial of George Lowell Everett, 20, in the strangulation death of Mrs. Lou Ellen Jones, 21.

No Affidavits

Duncan had asked for a delay in the trial on his contention "high passion and prejudice" would prevent his client receiving a fair trial. The attorney informed the court he was unable to present affidavits from citizens here in support of the motion.

Everett will be taken to the state hospital for examination.

Judge Lewis requested the commission give him a formal report by May 12. He said he would hold a pre-trial hearing May 19 to decide whether Everett should stand trial.

The court told Duncan he could sit in during questioning of Everett by the psychiatrists but would not be permitted to enter into the examination.

Everett sat motionless during the hour-long hearing. He was dressed in a wine-colored shirt, levis and [illegible] boots.

A parolee from a federal car theft charge, he was arrested in Dothan Jan. 27. He pleaded innocent by reason of insanity at an arraignment March 11.

Sheriff M. J. Daffin said Everett signed a statement in which he admitted stabbing, strangling and raping Mrs. Jones, a former El Reno, Okla., high school band beauty, in her home Jan. 18.

Her almost nude body was found sprawled on a bed when her husband, S. Sgt. Joseph R. Jones, returned from duty at Tyndall Air Force Base. Their 2 1-2-year-old son was playing nearby. He had not been harmed.



GEORGE LOWELL EVERETT

In Florida

White Man Gets Life For Rape Of Negro Woman

SEBRING, Fla — A white man convicted of raping a Negro woman was sentenced by Circuit Court Judge William P. Allen, to life imprisonment.

The woman testified that she was raped at pistol point, last April 23rd at a creek where she had gone fishing.

Andrew Jackson Pendarvis was convicted July 21, by a jury of 12 white men, whose recommendation of mercy saved him from the electric chair, Judge Allen determined the length of the sentence.

In pronouncing the sentence, Judge Allen told Pendarvis: "The law of this state does not differentiate between the races in criminal attack and, as a judge, I shall not."

The judge continued, "You were recommended to the mercy of the court by virtue of only one vote, a seven to five majority. If one man had refused to vote in favor of mercy, I would have had to sentence you to die."

White Man Gets Life Sentence In Assault Case

SEBRING, Fla. (INS)— Circuit Judge William P. Allen handed down a sentence of life imprisonment Monday to Andrew Jackson Pendarvis who was convicted of raping a Negro woman.

Pendarvis was convicted on July 21 by an all-white male jury. The jury's recommendation of mercy saved the defendant from death in the electric chair.

It was Judge Allen who decided upon the length of the sentence. In pronouncing the sentence, he said: "The law of this state does not differentiate between the races in criminal attack and, as a judge, I shall not."

The victim of the criminal attack testified that on April 23, she had gone fishing to a creek. She claimed that Pendarvis forced her to submit at pistol point.

White Man Gets Life For Raping Negro

Sebring, Fla., Sept. 27 (AP)—A white man convicted of raping a Negro woman was sentenced by Circuit Judge William P. Allen yesterday to life imprisonment.

Andrew Jackson Pendarvis was convicted July 21 by a jury of 12 white men, whose recommendation of mercy saved him from the electric chair. The length of sentence was determined by Judge Allen.

The woman testified she was raped at pistol point last April 23 at a creek where she had gone fishing.

Mass Assault On Woman Charged to 12

WINTER HAVEN —(AP)— Peace Justice Eloy Delgado said Saturday he has issued warrants charging 12 men and boys with rape in a mass attack on a 35-year-old woman last Sunday.

Constable Grady Maddox reported the woman and her husband said they were set on outside a cafe near Winter Haven, abducted and the man was beaten up while the woman was raped repeatedly.

Delgado said the following have been charged and are in custody:

Dee Franklin, 43, of Eloise; Bobby Joe Bassham, 17; his brother, Leroy Bassham, 21, both of Eloise; Jesse Dean Ryals, 18, Eagle Lake; Gerald Daniel, 18, Winter Haven; Gordon Miles Smith 18, Winter Haven route 1; Berney B. Atkinson, 17, Eloise; Lawrence Roy Parker, 18, Winter Haven; Tommy Williford, 18, Eloise; M. C. Gann, 17, Winter Haven route 1; Bobby E. Bruce, 17, Eloise; and Henry B. Gatlin, 21, Eloise.

A 13th man is being sought, the officers said.

Sheriff Pat Gordon said some of the group have signed confessions that "tell the whole story."

Jury Is Recalled To Study Mass Sex Attack Case

BARTOW, Fla., Oct. 18 (UP)— Circuit Judge D. O. Rogers announced today he had recalled the Polk County grand jury for Oct. 25 to consider the rape charge against 13 persons accused of mass-assaulting a 35-year - old housewife of Eloise.

Twelve persons were arrested and a 13th is still being sought in the attack on Oct. 9. Officers said the men seized the woman and her husband and took them to a secluded spot. The husband said he was beaten while his wife was being raped. Several of the accused were teenaged youths.

Justice Not Color Blind In Florida

JUSTICE is color blind in certain areas of the Southland. And such reasoning has been paramount in the recent Till murder trial in Mississippi, but the signs of our time saw a sharp departure from the traditional Southern way in Sebring, Fla., when a white man was sentenced to life imprisonment for the rape attack on a Negro woman. Had the jury not recommended mercy, the death verdict would have been automatic.

In handing down the almost unheard of sentence down our way, Circuit Judge William P. Allen had this to say to Andrew Jackson Pendarvis:

"The law of this state does not differentiate between the races in a criminal attack, and as a judge, I shall not . . . You were recommended to the mercy of the court by only one vote—a seven to five majority. If one man had refused to vote in favor of mercy, I would have had to sentence you to die."

The victim, who testified, was not intimidated or told that her testimony was not impressive or not accepted. The jury listened as she told of the attack at pistol point last April 23 at a creek where she was fishing.

Just before the Till Case got the headlines, the harsh differences between standards of justice for whites and Negroes was typically revealed in Mississippi.

On the same day that Bennett L. Austin (white) began a two year sentence for raping a 13-year-old Negro girl hired as a baby sitter, Walter Johnson, 18-year-old airman from Chicago died in the state's gas chamber for raping a white woman. Rape is a serious crime when committed by a Negro upon a white woman, but not so serious when committed by a white man in Mississippi upon a Negro child. One would think with all the raving about white supremacy and keeping the race pure that would be the last thing a white man would do in Mississippi, rape a Negro child or woman. Take a good look at the

population in Mississippi and it is easy to see that they have been raping Negro women for years and not having to go to jail for it as in the case of Bennett L. Austin.

It's mighty strange that one who strays from the white supremacy path and rapes a Negro is dealt with so differently. There was no difference in the crime allegedly committed. The only difference was that the dual system of justice that operates in the South bowed to custom in both cases.

So in full view of the miscarriage of justice in Mississippi which brought loud protests from all over the world, Florida proves that even in the Southland there can be justice when Negro and white are involved. The case indicates that the wheels of justice do not roll the same way in the sister states.

Negro Convicted of Rape In Florida Escapes Chair

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., Dec. 16 (AP).—Walter Lee Irvin won his long fight to escape Florida's electric chair yesterday when the State Pardon Board commuted his sentence to life imprisonment.

The unanimous action of the five-man board was taken on recommendation of Gov. Leroy Collins. The Governor said the State did not establish guilt of the 28-year-old Negro in the widely publicized Groveland rape case of 1949 "in an absolute and conclusive manner."

The State Parole Commission had recommended against clemency.

Irvin is one of four Negroes accused of the rape of a young white farm wife near Groveland. Two of the accused were slain by police bullets and a third, Charles Greenlee, is serving a life sentence.

Gov. Collins, who is a lawyer, said there was no question that Irvin's conviction was justified under rules of law relating to the degree of proof required to support a guilty verdict.

"At the same time, the State in the handling of the prosecution, in many ways did not walk that extra mile—did not establish the guilt of Walter Lee Irvin in an absolute and conclusive manner," Gen. Collins said.

The Governor rapped what he said was the policy of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People of jumping into cases involving

County Sheriff Willis McCall killed Samuel Shepherd and wounded Irvin while returning them to jail after their second conviction. The fourth, Charlie Greenlee, was given a life sentence because he was only 16.

Collins. who has had investigators working on the case since last spring, recommended clemency for Irvin but scored the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People for "making the administration of justice at times and under certain circumstances difficult."

In Death Cell 6 Years, Man Is Given Life

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., Dec. 15 (UP) — The Florida Pardon Board voted today to spare the life of Walter Lee Irvin, young Negro who has lived the last six of his 27 years in a death cell for his part in the state's most notorious rape case.

The five-man board, headed by Gov. Leroy Collins, voted unanimously to commute Irvin's death sentence to life imprisonment. The action closed the books on the widely-publicized "Groveland rape case" of 1949 in which the rape of a white farm wife by four Negroes touched off a wave of violence and forced then Gov. Fuller Warren to call out the National Guard.

Two of the other four already are dead. Ernest Thomas was killed by a posse of irate citizens. Lake

NAACP Saves Life of Irvin, Marshall Says

NEW YORK. — Had it not been for the intervention of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Walter Lee Irvin, Groveland rape charge victim, "would have been long since dead" and the governor of Florida "would not have had to request the Pardons Board to commute" his death sentence, Thurgood Marshall, NAACP special counsel, said here this week.

Mr. Marshall's comment was in refutation of charges against the association made by Gov. Leroy Collins on Dec. 15, in announcing the commutation of Irvin's sentence to life imprisonment. The governor said that "one of the circumstances that makes handling of this case more difficult is the participation by this organization (NAACP) because of the bare fact the defendant is a colored man rather than a careful evaluation of the circumstances and his guilt or innocence."

Governor's Statement 'Shocking'

While expressing appreciation of the governor's action in recommending the commutation and of the support of "the good people of Florida who backed Irvin's plea for clemency," the NAACP lawyer said he was "shocked to read the public statement of Gov. Collins which follows the pattern of other southern officials in using the NAACP as the whipping boy for the repeated injustices against Negroes in the South."

The governor, he asserted, "is completely in error in every statement concerning this organization. Under our rules we . . . enter cases only where there is injustice solely because of race and color and where there is the possibility of establishing a precedent which will help insure due process of law for all without regard to race."

Thorough Probe Made

The NAACP, Mr. Marshall pointed out, "made a thorough and complete investigation of the circumstances surrounding the alleged crime before entering the (Groveland) case. One of the lawyers from this office along with two Florida lawyers, one of whom is white, made an on-the-spot investigation shortly after the alleged crime. They were seriously handicapped in their investigation by the complete breakdown of law enforcement machinery in the county involved, resulting in rioting and posse killing.

"Despite all of this they were able to get the true facts in the case. We also used the services of several well-known private investigators, icluding one from Florida. As a result of this investigation, we were convinced and are still convinced that Walter Lee Irvin and others charged with the crime are completely innocent."

Moreover, the civil rights lawyer declared, the NAACP had arranged to have "a scientific study of public sentiment in the area" made. Everything was done to secure justice for Irvin and "at the same time to bring law and order to Lake County, Florida, for the best interests of the people there, and by the people we mean persons of both races."

The commutation, Mr. Marshall asserted, "in part at least vindicates our original position that Walter Lee Irvin is innocent and the victim of a gross miscarriage of justice."

Six Years To Save Youth

For six years, the NAACP worked intensively to save the youth from death in the electric chair for the alleged rape of a young white housewife in the summer of 1949. Irvin was one of four Negro youths originally charged with the crime.

Ernest Thomas was killed by a deputized mob during the rioting before the trial. On Sept. 3, 1949, Irvin and Samuel Shepherd were convicted and given the death sentence. Charles Greenlee, then 16 years old, was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Because of the reign of violence which was precipitated in the Groveland area after the woman made her accusation, the atmosphere of hostility in the courtroom, and the provocative role of press and radio in the area, NAACP attorneys at that time sought a change of venue and postponement of the trial. This was denied. An NAACP appeal to the U. S. Supreme court brought an order for a new trial for Shepherd and Irvin.

Killed By Sheriff

Shepherd was killed and Irvin wounded by Sheriff Willis McCall on their way from the prison to the new trial on Nov. 6, 1951. The two prisoners were unarmed and handcuffed together.

At Irvin's second trial in February, 1952, as in his first trial, the prosecution failed to produce any medical evidence of the plaintiff's testimony that she had been raped. The U. S. Supreme court refused to review the second conviction.

In a petition presented to the Supreme court in November, 1954, the NAACP contended that the prosecution in the two trials of Irvin and his co-defendants refused to call to the stand a white doctor who examined the plaintiff shortly after the alleged rape took place. That doctor, NAACP lawyers maintained, could have testified that the housewife had not been criminally assaulted. The NAACP petition also pointed up several other errors in the prosecution's case.

8946

Irvin's Life Spared, Ends Nightmare

Afro-American Sat. 12-31-55 P. 19

Baltimore, Md.

(Special to the AFRO)

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—For the first time in six years, Walter Lee Irvin woke up on Christmas morning in a cell that was not located in death row.

It was the first time that Irvin could appreciate the oft-song line of a Christmas carol "Peace on earth goodwill toward men."

Because ten days before Christmas, Gov. Leroy Collins announced the commutation of Irvin's condemnation to death in the electric chair to life imprisonment.

27e(2)

PROBABLY, AS IRVIN woke up Christmas morning, his thoughts wandered back in retrospect of those nine, nightmarish years in which he found himself at the very jaws of death.

* * *

IT ALL BEGAN during the summer of 1949. A 17-year-old woman, a resident of a town near Groveland, Fla., complained that she had been kidnaped by four colored men.

Later, she reportedly changed her story to the accusation that she was criminally attacked.

Inflamed by newspaper accounts, the white citizens of Lake County, Fla. organized a mob and rode through the colored section of Groveland and drove 400 residents out of town.

* * *

DURING THEIR wild ride the terrorists burned down homes and lynched one suspect, Ernest Thomas, 26.

A coroner's jury ruled that the mob was a "posse" and sought to bring a criminal to justice.

* * *

ON SEPT. 3, 1949, Irvin and Samuel Shepherd were convicted and given the death sentence. A fourth suspect, Charles Greenlee, then 16 years old, was sentenced to life imprisonment.

NAACP attorneys, Alex Aierman of Orlando and Thurgood Marshall of NYC, appealed the conviction.

The state Supreme Court upheld, but in April, 1951 the U.S. Supreme Court reversed the ruling and ordered a new trial holding that "no colored" persons were on the grand jury and trial jury panel.

* * *

THE SECOND trial for Irvin and Shepherd was scheduled to be held on Nov. 7, 1951.

Enroute from Raiford, Fla. to Eustis, Fla., Sheriff Willis McCall of Lake County stopped the car in which the prisoners were riding along a country road.

Sheriff McCall, according to Irvin, ordered the two prisoners out of the car to repair a flat tire.

When they got out of the car, Shepherd was shot and killed, while Irvin was wounded by three bullets.

"He shot me three times, but I played dead," Irvin told the court.

The sheriff was cleared by a coroner's jury, which ruled that it was "self defense."

* * *

IRVIN'S SECOND trial was held in Feb., 1952. Again he was convicted, although he insisted that he was innocent.

NAACP attorneys representing Irvin pointed out that the prosecution failed to produce any medical evidence corroborating the plaintiff's testimony that she had been criminally assaulted.

In Nov. 1954, the case was presented to the U. S. Supreme Court. However, the high court refused to review the second conviction.

IN COMMUTING the sentence, the governor of Florida took a left-handed swipe at the NAACP with the comment:

"One of the circumstances that makes handling of this case more difficult is the participation by this (NAACP) because of the bare fact the defendant is a colored man rather than a careful evaluation of the circumstances and his guilt or innocence."

* * *

MARSHALL COUNTERED: "Had it not been for the intervention of the NAACP, Irvin would have been long since dead and the governor would not have had to request the pardons board to commute his death sentence."

Such is the story of Irvin, as he awoke Christmas morning with the feeling that there may be something in the expression "where there is life there is hope."

Irvin's "hope" for Christmas, 1956 is probably undoubtedly proof of his innocence.

That "hope" lies within the woman, now 25, who said that four colored men assaulted her.

In those nine years, two have been killed and two others are imprisoned for life.

Christmas, 1955 means something to Walter Lee Irvin.

Fla. Commutes Irvin's Death Sentence To Life Imprisonm't

Sailey Herald p1

Dec. 12-16-55 Atlanta, Ga.

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — (INS) — The Florida State Pardon Board Thursday commuted to life imprisonment the death sentence of Walter Lee Irvin, one of four Negroes convicted in the notorious Groveland rape case in 1949.

The board, acting on the direction of Gov. Leroy Collins, was unanimous in its action.

Gov. Collins, however, sharply criticized the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People which had taken an active interest in the case ever since the case burst into headlines six years ago.

27e(2)

He said, "This organization (NAACP) in many ways makes the administration of justice at times and under certain circumstances more difficult."

IRVIN, ONE OF FOUR

Irvin was one of four Negroes charged with raping a white woman in Groveland, in central Florida, in 1949. The case set off widespread violence against Negroes in that region.

Irvin's first conviction was upset by the U. S. Supreme Court on grounds that prejudiced newspaper articles prevented Irvin's getting a fair trial.

While being transferred from prison with co-defendant Samuel Shepherd for their second trial Irvin and Shepherd were shot by Lake County Sheriff Willis McCall.

ONE PRISONER KILLED

Shepherd was killed and Irvin was seriously wounded.

McCall claimed that the two men had attacked him but Irvin charged that the sheriff opened fire on them without provocation.

Irvin was convicted at his second trial and was sentenced to death.

One defendant in the case was shot by a police posse and the other pleaded guilty and is serving a life sentence.

Irvin has always maintained his innocence in the case.

Collins told the State Pardon Board that he has had lawyers make an intensive study of the case.

IMPRESSED BY PROSECUTION

The governor said he was impressed by a letter from Jess Hunter, who prosecuted Irvin in which Hunter stated that Irvin had refused to plead guilty and accept the life sentence.

Collins said he also was recommending mercy because Hunter had revealed that Irvin, while believed to be dying from the wounding by McCall, still maintained his innocence.

In criticizing the NAACP, Collins said, "There have been many statements of the interest of the NAACP in this case. I want to say I have had no contact with any representative of that organization and I desire none."

Earlier the board refused to commute the death sentence imposed on Charlie Copeland, Jr., a Jacksonville Negro convicted of raping a 12-year-old white girl.

Copeland's lawyer had charged before the board Wednesday that only Negroes are electrocuted in Florida for the crime of rape. The charge of discrimination was denied by William Hallowes, Duval County State Attorney who prosecuted Copeland.

'Nervous' Negro Flubs Robbery Try

Advertiser p1 Montgomery, Ala.

INVERNESS, Miss., Jan. 20 (U.P.) — A nervous Negro teen-ager failed in his attempt to rob the Bank of Inverness today, took $150 at gunpoint from a depositor instead, and surrendered 40 minutes later after a posse cornered him in a cotton field.

1-21-56

Highway Patrolmen identified the Negro as I. C. Kelly, 18, an Inverness farm worker, and said he was in Inverness jail. No charges have been filed.

Patrolmen said Kelly admitted the robbery after money was found on him. He said three other Negroes helped him plan the robbery.

The three still are at large.

Death Sentence Commuted

Courier p. 2

Walter Irvin's Prayers Answered: He Won't Die

Pittsburgh, Pa.

Sat. 12-24-55

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Informed that the Florida Pardon Board had commuted to life imprisonment the death sentence which had relentlessly dangled above his head during the past six years, Walter Lee Irvin, from the shadows of his death cell, whispered to the turnkey, "that's what I've been praying for."

Thus came to an end one of the most infamous episodes of the post-war years, an episode which commenced at Groveland, Fla., in 1949, when Irvin and four companions allegedly participated in the ravishment of a white farm wife.

Two of the accused, Charles Greenlee, who was 16 at the time of the incident, and now Irvin, are serving life sentences. Ernest Thomas was killed by a posse, following the attack, and Lake County Sheriff Willis McCall shot dead the fourth accused, Samuel Shepherd, and also wounded Irvin while returning them to jail after their second conviction.

The board is reported to have acted on directions sent by Gov. Leroy Collins, resulting in unanimous action. Governor Collins allegedly criticized the NAACP, which took an active interest in the six-year litigation.

"I don't hesitate to say that one of the circumstances that make handling of cases of this type more difficult is the participation by this organization because of the bare fact that the defendant is a colored man, rather than a careful evaluation of the circumstances of his guilt or innocence."

* * *

RECALLING THAT whites burned the Negro section of Groveland to the ground, drove Negroes from their homes and touched off a wave of violence which forced then incumbent Fuller Warren to restore order with the National Guard, Thurgood Marshall, NAACP special counsel, answered Governor Collins.

He declared: "Governor Collins is completely in error in every statement about the NAACP. Had the NAACP not intervened, all originally charged would be dead and the Governor would not have had to request the pardon board to commute Irvin's sentence."

Convicted twice, Irvin's days seemed numbered when the U. S. Supreme Court refused to review the final determination of guilt, as had resulted in Marion County. Attorney Marshall said the State of Florida failed to establish Irvin's guilt in an absolute and conclusive manner, since the original bill charged the four men together participated in the crime.

Walter Lee Irvin's life saved by NAACP, Marshall says

Afro American Baltimore, Md.

Sat. 12-24-55

NEW YORK—Had it not been for the intervention of the NAACP, Walter Lee Irvin, Groveland rape charge victim, "would have been long since dead" and the Governor of Florida "would not have had to request the Pardons Board to commute" his death sentence, Thurgood Marshall, NAACP special counsel, said here Monday.

Mr. Marshall's comment was in refutation of charges against the association made by Gov. Leroy Collins on Dec. 15, in announcing the commutation of Irvin's sentence to life imprisonment.

The governor said that "one of the circumstances that makes handling of this case more difficult is the participation by this organization (NAACP) because of the bare fact the defendant is a colored man rather than a careful evaluation of the circumstances and his guilt or innocence."

* * *

WHILE EXPRESSING appreciation of the Governor's action in recommending the commutation and of the support of "the good people of Florida who backed Irvin's plea for clemency," the NAACP lawyer said he was "shocked to read the public statement of Governor Collins which follows the pattern of other southern officials in using the NAACP as the whipping boy for the repeated injustices against colored persons in the South."

The governor, he asserted, "is completely in error in every statement concerning this organization. Under our rules we... enter cases only where there is injustice solely because of race and color and where there is the possbility of establishing a precedent which will help insure due process of law for all without regard to race."

THE NAACP, Mr. Marshall pointed out, "made a thorough and complete investigation of the circumstances surrounding the alleged crime before entering the (Groveland) case. One of the lawyers from this office, along with two Florida lawyers, one of whom is white, made an on-the-spot investigation shortly after the alleged crime.

"They were seriously handicapped in their investigation by the complete breakdown of law enforcement machinery in the county involved, resulting in rioting and a posse killing. Despite all of this they were able to get the true facts in the case.

"We also used the services of several well-known private investigators, including one from Florida. As a result of this investigation, we were convinced and are still convinced that Walter Lee Irvin and others charged with the crime are completely innocent."

Moreover, the civil rights lawyer declared, the NAACP had arranged to have "a scientific study of public sentiment in the area" made. Everything was done to secure justice for Irvin and "at the same time to bring law and order to Lake County, Fla., for the best interests of the people there, and by the people we mean persons of both races."

The commutation, Mr. Marshall asserted, "in part at least vindicates our original position that Walter Lee Irvin is innocent and the victim of a gross miscarriage of justice."

Fla. Commutes Irvin's Death Sentence To Life Imprisonm't

Posted Sat. 12-23-55 p. 8

B'ham, Ala.

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The board, acting on the direction of Gov. Leroy Collins, was unanimous in its action.

Gov. Collins, however, sharply criticized the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People which had taken an active interest in the case ever since the case burst into headlines six years ago.

27c (2) Fla.

He said, "This organization (NAACP) in many ways makes the administration of justice at times and under certain circumstances more difficult."

IRVIN, ONE OF FOUR

Irvin was one of four Negroes charged with raping a white woman in Groveland, in central Florida, in 1949. The case set off widespread violence against Negroes in that region.

Irvin's first conviction was upset by the U. S. Supreme Court on appeal. Irvin was convicted a second time and sentenced to death.

Irvin's attorney, Marshall, said the State of Florida failed to establish Irvin's guilt in an absolute and conclusive manner, since the original bill charged the four men together participated in the crime.

Marshall, NAACP special counsel, said the Florida Pardon Board had commuted to life imprisonment the death sentence which had relentlessly dangled above his head during the past six years, Walter Lee Irvin, from the shadows of his death cell, whispered to the turnkey, "that's what I've been praying for."

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Copeland's lawyer had charged before the board Wednesday that only Negroes are electrocuted in Florida for the crime of rape. The charge of discrimination was denied by William Hallowes, Duval County State Attorney who prosecuted Copeland.

Fla. Denies Fabricated Evidence In Irvin Case

WASHINGTON, D. C. — (NNPA) — The State of Florida Tuesday denied that it had used fabricated evidence and perjured testimony and had suppressed evidence to obtain the conviction of Walter Lee Irvin, who is under sentence of death in the electric chair.

Irvin, now 27, and three other colored youths, Ernest Thomas, Charles Greenlee and Samuel Sheppard, were accused by Mrs. Norma Padgett, a Groveland, Fla., white farm housewife, of assaulting her on the night of July 6, 1949.

Thomas was shot to death by a sheriff's posse; Greenlee, then 16, was sent to prison for life. Irvin and Sheppard were convicted and sentenced to death in September, 1949.

LONELY ROAD

After the United States Supreme Court had ordered a new trial, Sheriff Willis McCall shot and killed Sheppard and seriously wounded Irvin in the middle of the night, November 6, 1951, on a lonely road. He claimed the two prisoners had attacked him while he was removing them from the Ratford State Penitentiary for hearing in their case.

In a brief filed in the United States Supreme Court Tuesday, the State of Florida is opposing a review of the action of lower Federal courts in denying Irvin his freedom on a petition for a writ of habeas corpus.

The State contends that the petition for habeas corpus was wholly insufficient to show that the State knowingly used fabricated evidence or perjured testimony or suppressed evidence beneficial to Irvin.

TRIAL AND APPEAL

Although Irvin knew at his trial and on appeal to the Florida Supreme Court the facts relating to his conviction, the State says, he never raised the question of whether the prosecution concerning the evidence and testimony at any time prior to his filing a petition for a writ of habeas corpus.

The trial record shows that James L. Yates testified that he found foot prints at the scene where Mrs. Padget was abducted, that he obtained from Irvin's mother the shoes Irvin said he was wearing the night of the crime and compared them with the footprints and they matched perfectly.

Yates also testified that he made plaster casts of the tracks, which were introduced in evidence t the first trial but had got all broken to pieces going back and forth to the Florida Supreme Court.

AN EXPERT

Irvin objected to Yates' testimony concerning the tracks and casts on the ground that Yates was not qualified as an expert, but not on the ground that Yates had fabricated evidence or was giving perjured testimony.

H. V. Bennett, a consulting criminalogist, testified that he reassembled the broken pieces and made a photograph of the casts and that there were doubt in his mind that the footprints were made by the shoes in question.

The State asserts that Irvin knew all of the facts concerning the foot prints and the casts and his failure to raise the question of whether the State used fabricated evidence or perjured testimony at the trial and on appeal barred him from raising it on habeas corpus.

The Florida Supreme Court record also shows that the only objection made to the introduction in evidence of Irvin's trousers was that they were obtained by illegal search and seizure.

The State says no question was raised as to the State's failure to obtain a scientific analysis of the smears on Irvin's trousers in a motion for a new trial or on appeal.

HABEAS CORPUS

He had full knowledge of the facts regarding these smears, the State asserts, and he waived the point by not raising it at the trial or on appeal and is barred from relief by way of habeas corpus.

Yates also testified that a handkerchief, to which a piece of cotton or lint was sticking, was found at the scene of the crime.

The handkerchief, with the little piece of cotton tied up inside, was introduced in evidence without objection.

Yates also testified that the kind of cotton he found on the handkerchief was all over the back seat and floorboards of the car in which Mrs. Padgett was attacked. He said evidently the upholstering had been torn up and the cotton and lint were coming out.

The State contends that Irvin, by not raising in the trial court or on appeal any question of whether the State had constructively suppressed evidence by refusing to obtain a scientific analysis of the lint, waived the point and is barred from raising it on habeas corpus.

NO OBJECTION

Yates testified that the casts he made of the automobile tracks compared with the tracks on the tires themselves. No objection was made to this testimony except that Yates had not qualified as an expert.

The car belonged to James Sheppard. Neither it nor the tires on it at the time the crime was committed were offered in evidence.

The State contends that Irvin had full knowledge of the facts and he waived the point by not raising the question of the State's failure to obtain a scientific analysis of the tire tracks and casts in either the trial court or on appeal and is barred from raising it on habeas corpus.

At no time during the trial, the State says, did Irvin raise any question about the State having suppressed evidence by its failure to have the medical examiner, who examined Mrs. Padgett shortly after the rape.

The State adds that the petition for a writ of habeas corpus made no claim that Irvin and his counsel were unaware of the medical examination and its results in ample time to have raised the question in the trial court or on appeal.

The State also asserts that Irvin raised no question about the killing of Sheppard having resulted in the suppression of evidence which Sheppard might have given at the second trial.

Irvin had full knowledge of the facts concerning the killing of Sheppard, the State says, and he could have raised the question of whether his constitutional rights had been infringed. His failure to do so, the State says, was a waiver of the point and cannot now be raised.

Florida denies Irvin's char that assault trial was unfa ir

27e(2)

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Thomas was shot to death by a sheriff's posse. Greenlee, then 16, was sent to prison for life. Irvin and Sheppard were convicted and sentenced to death in September, 1949.

* * *

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* * *

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ANTI-JC WATCHDOG

NEW YORK (ANP)—Theron A. Johnson has been named administrator of the Education Practices Act of New York State. The announcement was made by Lewis A. Wilson, state commissioner of education.

Clemency Is Asked For Walter Irvin Of Groveland

Daily World 27e(2) 17-1

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — A plea to save the life of Walter Lee Irvin, twice convicted and sentenced to death for a crime he swore he never committed, was made this week to the Florida Board of Pardons by Paul Perkins, Florida attorney, who along with NAACP Legal Defense attorneys have fought for the past six years to save Irvin from the electric chair. The final plea was made in a petition for clemency which asked the Florida Board of Pardons, headed by the Governor, to commute Irvin's death sentence to life imprisonment.

On January 10, the United States Supreme Court turned down a request of the lawyers to review the case after it had granted a stay to hear further argument based on the fact that Irvin was not given a fair and impartial trial. It was the third time Irvin's case was taken to the United States Supreme Court.

The refusal on the part of the Supreme Court to review the case allowed death in the electric chair to close in on the last surviving defendant in the now famous Groveland Case.

Irvin and three other Negro youths were accused and convicted of raping a white farm wife on July 6, 1949. One youth was shot to death before he ever reached the courtroom, another was killed on a lonely road by the sheriff after the United States Supreme Court had ordered a new trial, and the fourth youth is now serving life imprisonment on the Florida chain gang.

appeared again Tuesday before jurors.

He denied at the writ hearing that he used force and claimed that he and the nurse had shared in several evenings of "necking and petting."

Failure of the jury to indict meant that Olis would be freed from county fail.

Indictments returned Tuesday were those against Abe Flowers, 50, Miami Negro, for first-degree murder in the fatal shooting last Dec. 4 of Ernest Smith, 55, Negro, during a card game, and Arthur H. Sorey, 24, Miami Negro, for rape last Dec. 21.

One sealed indictment also was voted by the jury with the accused man reported to be in custody of military authorities.

Circuit Judge George Holt will arraign the indicted men next Monday noon along with several other persons recently charged in capital cases. Trial dates also will be set Monday.

Grand Jury Frees Man in Assault Case

Miami Herald Wed. 2-2-55 B-2

27e(2)

Dade county's grand jury refused Tuesday to vote a rape indictment against Charles J. Olis, Jr., 28, South Bend, Ind., arrested Jan. 12 on an alleged assault on a Miami nurse he met New Year's Eve.

The woman had testified last week before Circuit Judge Pat Cannon in a writ of habeas corpus hearing that Olis, a sales promoter, struck her and forced her to submit during a ride west of Miami the night of Jan. 11-12. She

Last plea made for Irvin's life

27e(2)

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The refusal on the part of the Supreme Court to review the case has allowed death in the electric chair to close in on the last surviving defendant in the now famous Groveland Case.

The clemency plea asked the Florida Board of Pardons to commute Irvin's sentence to life because the state was willing at an earlier time to settle for a less severe punishment.

Formal Murder Charge Filed Against Youth In Rape-Death

Associated Press 27e(2)

PANAMA CITY, Fla., Jan. 28 (AP)—County Judge Joseph Bailey today issued a formal warrant charging a Dothan, Ala., youth with first degree murder in the rape-slaying of a pretty, young Panama City housewife.

The warrant against George Lowell Everett, 19, was issued on an affidavit filed by Sheriff M. J. Daffin.

Dat. 1-29-55

The officer said Everett, who was arrested at Dothan Wednesday night, signed a 40-page statement yesterday admitting he stabbed, strangled and raped Mrs. Lou Ellen Jones, 21, when she surprised him rifling her modest duplex apartment the morning of Jan. 18.

The nearly nude body of the former El Reno, Okla., high school band queen was found by her husband, S. Sgt. Joseph R. Jones, when he returned that afternoon from duty at nearby Tyndall Air Force Base.

Their 2-year-old son, Curtis, was not harmed.

Everett, a federal parole, has a police record dating back to the theft of a bicycle when he was 11. He was paroled last October after serving about two years of a federal sentence for car theft.

The youth was traced through an automobile stolen from his employer and abandoned on a Mobile, Ala., street.

The [illegible] when his trial will be held.

Sgt. Jones, who took the body back to Oklahoma for burial last weekend, told newsmen:

"What is there to say? But I'm glad they got the man who killed my wife."

New Lead Fades In Groveland Case

Tue. 6-17-55

Tampa Negro Does Not Know Name of Physician, He Explains

Denied Miami, Fla. 27e(2)

TALLAHASSEE —(AP)— The state parole commission and Gov. LeRoy Collins said Thursday they had had no further word from a Negro newspaperman who had promised to produce new evidence in support of a condemned Negro in the Groveland rape case.

C. A. Irvin, advertising director for a Tampa Negro newspaper, told the pardon board Wednesday he had located a physician who examined the young woman involved in the rape case of 1949 and found no evidence she had been raped.

Collins said he was interested in that point and asked the parole commission to investigate. Commission Chairman Francis Bridges requested Irvin to meet him in his office at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Irvin had appeared before the board in support of a clemency petiiton for Walter Lee Irvin, who has been sentenced to die for his part in the alleged rape. The advertising man said he was not related to the Negro under death sentence.

Collins said Thursday with regard to the Irvin case:

"We have offered the full services of the parole commission to assist (C. A.) Irvin in the development of any relevant facts.

"We have heard nothing further from him since he left the meeting and as I understand it he has asked for no further help."

At Tampa, Irvin, the advertising man, said he had several pressing matters to attend to in Tallahassee Wednesday and could not fill an appointment with Bridges to discuss the identity of the physician.

Irvin said, however, "I am sorry if any impression has gone out that I knew the name of the doctor, but I am tracking down sources that I believe to be reliable and putting an honest effort to reveal the identity of this physician — if there be one.

"My purpose in appearing before the pardon board was to ascertain if such information would be of interest to them.

"It appears to me that sources of information available to me are equally available to the pardon board."

Cites Race Difference In Sentences

Daily World Thurs. 12-13-55 27e(2)

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—(AP)—An attorney for a Negro sentenced to death for rape charged before the State Pardon Board Wednesday that only Negroes are electrocuted in the state for the crime of rape.

Atlanta Ga.

Ernest Jackson, a Negro lawyer from Jacksonville, said no white man has been electrocuted on a rape conviction in Florida since 1935, but that 23 Negroes have died for the same crime in the 20-year period.

Jackson made the charge in asking for commutation of the death sentence imposed on Charlie Copeland, Jr., a Negro from Jacksonville convicted of raping a white girl in 1953.

Jackson asked the board to handle Copeland's appeal with "equity and justice."

Jackson said his statements were based on statistics furnished him by retiring State Prison Supt. L. F. Chapman.

Duval County State Attorney William Hallowes said there was no basis for the charge of racial discrimination and declared that rape cases are heard in all of the 67 counties by different juries and different judges.

He said no pattern of discrimination exists.

The penalty for rape, he said, ranges from one year to death.

The Board took no action on Copeland's case although a decision may be handed down today.

27e(2) 1955

GENERAL

8948

DEATH SENTENCE OF NEGRO UPSET

Times

Georgia Jury Exclusion of Members of His Race Opposed by High Court

First 12-6-55

By LUTHER A. HUSTON

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5—The Supreme Court unanimously reversed today a death sentence imposed on Amos Reece, a Georgia Negro, for rape.

In two other cases, the court upheld, 6 to 3, the conviction of three Louisiana Negroes sentenced to death for similar crimes.

The issue in each case was whether challenges based on the alleged systematic exclusion of Negroes had been properly raised under state laws against the grand juries that returned the indictments.

Justice Tom C. Clark wrote the prevailing opinion in the three cases. Justic William O. Douglas wrote a dissent in the two Louisiana cases in which Chief Justice Earl Warren and Justice Hugo L. Black joined. Justice Black wrote a separate dissent in these cases, in which the Chief Justice and Justice Douglas concurred.

Reece was arrested Oct. 20, 1953, and indicted three days later. He was accused of raping a white woman at whose home he stopped for a drink of water. At the time, he was serving a four-to-twenty year sentence in a Georgia public works camp for theft and assault with intent to rape.

First Conviction Reversed

Reece was convicted in Cobb County Superior Court Oct. 30, 1953, but the Georgia Supreme Court set the conviction aside because of lower court errors. He was retired in the same court, convicted July 22, 1954, and sentenced to death in the electric chair. The Georgia high court affirmed that conviction.

The Louisiana defendants are Joh Michel, alleged to have waylaid two white girls Feb. 10, 1953, while they were returning from a carnival in New Orleans, and Clifton Alton Poret and Edgar Labat, accused of the rape of a New Orleans telephone operator.

Reece argued that Negroes had been systematically excluded from the Georgia grand juries and petit juries that had heard his case. He said that a Georgia law that required him to challenge the composition of a grand jury before an indictment was returned violated the guarantee of due process of law provision in the Fourteenth Amendment to the Federal Constitution.

Justice Clark said that indictment by a grand jury that systematically excluded members of a defendant's race was "a denial of his right to equal protection of the laws."

Justice Clark held that there was evidence of systemic exclusion of Negroes from juries in Cobb County. He noted that no Negro had served on a jury there in eighteen years.

On the main oint at issue, Justice Clark said that Reece had not had an opportunity to challenge the composition of the grand jury before the indictment was returned.

The jury was impanelled eight days before his arrest and adjourned the day before the arrest, to be recovened two days later by an order that did not list Reece as one against whom a case would be presented.

There also was delay, Justice Clark held, in providing Reece, described in the opinion as "a semi-illiterate Negro of low mentality," with a lawyer. An attorney was appointed by the court the day after the indictment.

"We need not decide whether, with the assistance of counsel, he would have had an opportunity to raise his objection during the two days he was in jail before indictment," Justice Clark said. "But it is utterly unrealistic to say that he had such opportunity when counsel was not provided for him until the day after he was indicted."

Reece's conviction was reversed, and the case was sent back to the Georgia court for consideration of the question of the make-up of the grand jury.

Louisiana laws requires that objections to a grand jury be raised before the end of the third judicial day after the end of the grand jury's term or before the trial, whichever is earlier.

In the Michel case the precise date of the appointment of a counsel to represent him was the issue. The Louisiana courts held that a lawyer had been appointed in time to have challenged the composition of the grand jury within the statutory time. The Supreme Court upheld that ruling.

In the case of Poret, he fled the state soon after the cirme was committed, and Louisiana found him in prison in Tennessee.— Tennessee would not release him until his term expired.

When Poret was returned to New Orleans, he moved to quash the indictment on the ground of exclusion of Negroes from the grand jury. The New Orleans court held that the motion came a year and a half too late.

Justice Clark said that under the due process clause, "Louisiana may attach reasonable time limitations to the assertion of Federal constitutional rights." The state may require, he added, prompt assertion of a right to challenge discriminatory practices in the make-up of a grand jury.

Poret, the justice declared, could have filed his objection in time "if he had not elected to flee." Hence there was "no violation of due process in denying this motion as out of time."

Labat was Poret's codefendant. He said that he was denied effective representation of counsel, but the Supreme Court held that the record did not support his argument.

Justice Douglas said in his dissent that "Poret had no real opportunity to challenge the constitutionality of the composition of the grand jury.'

"His flight was a wrong that could be punished," Justice Douglas said. "But it is dangerous doctrine to deprive a man of his constitutional rights in one case for his wrongful conduct in another."

Justice Black said that neither Michel or Poret had received a "reasonable opportunity' to challenge the make-up of the grand jury. He said that the majority opinion "gives far too little weight to the constitutional and statutory rights of accused to be indicted and tried by jries seleted without racial discrimination."

Writ Of Habeas Corpus Postpones Execution Of Frederick Mosley

Daily World Atlanta Ga.

By SAMUEL L. ADAMS

Gospel singer Fred Mosley escapes the death chair at Reidsville for at least another month, it was revealed Wednesday.

The news was received by the press just two days before Mosley was to be automatically resentenced on July 15th to the electric chair.

27e(2)

Atty. Clyde Henley, one of two lawyers representing Mosley, said his office secured a writ of habeas corpus Tuesday which will save the convicted prisoner from immediate execution.

Thurs 7-14-55

Mosley, a veteran and the father of a young infant, was sentenced to death by electrocution but was granted a 30-day stay June 15 by Gov. Marvin Griffin to give the young father's attorneys more time for legal work. The writ secured by his attorneys automatically delays the execution date until after an August 12 hearing on the writ.

HEARING SET FOR GLENVILLE

The writ was secured through the office of Judge R. L. Clark, Glenville, Ga. — the city court having jurisdiction over Reidsville. Hearing on the writ will be held in that same court.

After having secured the writ, the attorneys served it on the Reidsville warden, R. B. Balkcom, Jr. Then they notified the state Board of Corrections here in Atlanta (not to be confused with the Board of Pardons and Paroles).

The Board of Pardons and Paroles, which announced Tuesday that no one had officially asked for clemency for the army veteran, apparently was not aware of last-ditch efforts to save the gospel singer's life through other channels.

At that time, Hugh Carney, chairman of the pardons and paroles board, explained that either Mosley's wife or attorneys would have to request clemency before his board could weigh evidence available to them.

Mosley was first scheduled to be executed June 17 after an all-white jury found him guilty of rape-robbery charges. He continues to swear his innocence.

A ray of hope for the Gospel Harmoneers singer came when Atlanta Daily World reporter George Coleman, along with others, discovered that the state's surprise witness earlier had charged a much taller man with attacking her but altered her testimony when he was cleared by lie detector tests.

The former suspect made a sworn affidavit challenging the testimony of one of Mosley's accusers by declaring that the woman previously swore he was her attacker. The evidence was further corroborated by official verification.

The testimony of the other alleged victim was questioned because she reportedly stated that a man over six feet tall assaulted her. Mosely is very short.

Slayer Of Girl Sentenced To Die

Post-Herald Birmingham Ala.

CARTERSVILLE, Ga., June 15 (AP) — Willie Grady Cochran, 37-year-old swamill worker, was sentenced today to die in the electric chair for the slaying of a 14-year-old Rome schoolgirl.

Bartow Superior Court Judge James H. Paschall set Aug. 2 as returned a guilty verdict without date of execution when the jury a recommendation of mercy after 42 minutes deliberation.

Sat. 7-16-55

The former mental patient admitted luring Patricia Ann Cook from her home June 20 on the pretense of taking her to a swimming pool, criminally assaulting her and shooting her through the back of the head on a lonely road.

P.T.

Her body was found five days later in the Etowah River wrapped in a blanket, tied in baling wire and weighted with a big wrench.

Defense Attorneys Marion Corbitt and Jere White pleaded with the jury to bring in a verdict of not guilty because of insanity.

27e(2)

Before the one-day trial started a 12-man jury considered the question of Cochran's sanity and ruled that he was sane.

Cochran, who also has been indicted for kidnaping in Floyd County in connection with Patricia Ann's death, was on parole after serving nine years on a 20-year assault sentence.

The tall, gaunt man was confined to Milledgeville State Hospital, a mental institution, for a year and a half, being released as "free of psychosis" in February, 1950.

Case Challenging Jury Duty Reaches U. S. Court

Daily World Sat. 10-8-55

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(NNPA)—A second case challenging the exclusion of colored persons not only from grand and trial juries but from jury commissions as well has reached the United States Supreme Court.

Amos Reece is seeking a review of his conviction and death sentence in Georgia courts on a charge of raping a white woman.

P.T.

Represented by two local court-appointed attorneys, Reece the next day after he was indicted filed a motion to quash the indictment. After hearing evidence that showed colored persons had been excluded from the grand jury which indicted Reece, the court overruled the motion.

Atlanta Ga.

Reece was tried in the Cobb Co. Superior Court on October 30, 1954, found guilty and sentenced to be electrocuted.

The Georgia Supreme Court set aside his conviction, but ruled that the motion to quash the indictment should have filed before the indictment was returned.

Before his second trial, Reece, who had changed attorneys, filed a motion to quash the panel of trial jurors because no colored persons were on it. The motion was denied. Reece was tried against June 22, 1954, found guilty and sentenced to be electrocuted. The Georgia Supreme Court upheld the second conviction.

Daniel Duke, an Atlanta attorney who is now representing Reece, contends that where an illiterate colored man of low mentality is jailed and indicted by an all-whtel grand jury at a time when he did not have legal counsel, he is denied a fair trial if the court, after indictment, denies him the right to attack the method and procedure by which he was indicted.

Reece's petition for a review says there are at least 100 colored persons legally qualified and competent to serve as jury commissioners in Cobb County, but none has ever been appointed to serve because of their color and this discrimination taints the whole lists of grand and trial jurors.

"This is a question that must ultimately be answered," Duke asserts in the brief. "Those in this region familiar with the modes of thought and action that exist in actuality beneath the abstract law—law and procedure in action—know that Negroes will never participate in the administration of justice on an equality with white persons until their race is represented on the commissions and boards that select the persons to perform jury duty."

HIGH COURT TOLD GEORGIA DEFIES IT

N. Y. Times

Asked to Upset Conviction of Negro Because of the State Tribunal's Action

Sat. 10-22-55

By LUTHER A. HUSTON

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 21—A lawyer for a Georgia Negro under sentence of death for murder asked the Supreme Court today to reverse the conviction. He said the Supreme Court of Georgia had defied a mandate of the Federal tribunal.

P.T.

Georgia courts, it was stated in a petition filed here, "are refusing to provide any remedy for an admitted violation of a Federal constitutional right." The case, it was asserted, "involves the supremacy of the Federal constitutional system and the authority of this court."

The mandate the Georgia court was accused of defying was issued by the Supreme Court last June. It remanded for further consideration the Georgia tribunal's refusal to grant a new trial to Auby Williams, convicted in the Superior Court of Fulton County, Ga., on March 10, 1953, of the murder of a white man.

New York

The motion for a new trial challenged the jury system under which names of white persons drawn from the jury box are on white tickets and the names of Negroes on yellow tickets. About two months before Williams was convicted the Supreme Court had outlawed this method of choosing jurors in another case arising in the same Georgia county.

14th Amendment Cited

In that case, known as Avery v. Georgia, the Supreme Court held that the method of selecting the jury denied equal protection of the laws guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution.

A Georgia law provides that a jury panel must be challenged when the trial begins. It precludes such a challenge for the first time in a motion for a new trial.

It was under this law that Williams' appeal for a new trial

was rejected by the high court of Georgia. An appeal was taken to the Federal Supreme Court.

Justice Felix Frankfurter wrote the majority opinion, from which Justices Sherman Minton, Stanley F. Reed and Tom C. Clark dissented. Justice Frankfurter said that during the arguments Georgia had acknowledged that "as a matter of substantive law Williams had been deprived of his constitutional rights." This was the factor, Justice Frankfurter said, that warranted sending the case back for further consideration.

"Fair regard for the principles which the Georgia courts have enforced in numerous cases and for the constitutional commands binding on all courts," Justice Frankfurter wrote, "compels us to reject the assumption that the courts of Georgia would allow this man to go to his death as a result of a conviction secured from a jury which the state admits was unconstitutionally impaneled."

New Motions Filed

After the Supreme Court's mandate had been handed down, Carter Goode, an Atlanta attorney, filed new motions with the Georgia high court. He asked that the trial court's order dismissing the motion for a new trial be reversed and the judge be directed to hold a hearing and grant a new trial if the evidence warranted.

The Georgia high court denied those motions and unanimously reaffirmed its previous ruling.

"This court bows to the Supreme Court on all Federal questions of law, but we will not supinely surrender sovereign powers of this state," the tribunal declared. "We state that our opinion in Williams v. State is supported by sound and unchallenged law, conforms to the state and Federal Constitution, and stands as the judgment of all seven justices of this court."

The opinion of the Georgia Supreme Court quoted the Tenth Amendment to the Constitution. This says that "the powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people."

The Williams case came under state law, the Georgia Tribunal asserted, and was beyond the jurisdiction of the Federal courts.

Eugene Gressman, Washington attorney for Williams, asserted in the petition filed with the Supreme Court that Georgia's "defiance of this court's ruling raises a most basic question as to the supremacy of this court over state courts on issues arising out of the Federal Constitution."

"It thus becomes necessary and appropriate," the petition said, "to review the recalcitrant action of the Georgia court * * * in order that the supremacy of the Federal constitution and the authority of this court may be sustained."

State's Defiance in Slaying Appeal Raises Question of Final Authority

Sat. 10-22-55

An appeal on the 1953 Fulton Superior Court conviction of Aubry Williams, Negro, in the murder of a white man Friday raised a question of the U.S. Supreme Court's authority over the Georgia Supreme Court, the New York Times Service said.

A Washington, D.C., lawyer for Williams asked the federal tribunal to reverse Williams' conviction on the grounds that the Georgia Supreme Court had defied the U.S. court.

Two months before Williams' conviction the federal justices had ruled that Georgia's practice of distinguishing between whites and Negroes in choosing a jury violated the equal protection clauses of the 14th amendment.

After Williams was sentenced the Georgia Supreme Court rejected an appeal on the grounds that state law requires the challenging of a jury when the trial begins.

The case was appealed to the U.S. court, and in June of this year the federal court remanded the case to Georgia. In a 6-3 decision the federal justices said Williams' constitutional rights were violated. It ruled that Georgia's jury-challenge law yielded to considerations of federal civil rights.

Williams again appealed to the state court, which again rejected his appeal and reaffirmed its previous stand. "This court bows to the Supreme Court on all federal questions of law, but we will not supinely surrender sovereign powers of this state," the Georgia tribunal said.

Eugene Gressman, Williams' Washington attorney, now says the Georgia court flatly defied the federal court and thereby raised basic questions as to the supremacy of the U.S. court over state courts.

"It thus becomes necessary and appropriate," the new petition says, "to review the recalcitrant action of the Georgia court . . . in order that the supremacy of the federal Constitution and the authority of this court may be sustained."

Georgia Man Gets Life For Assault

Herald Tues. 11-1-55

A Georgia Negro who admitted the rape of a 15-year-old white girl here last August was ordered to Florida prison Monday for a life term by Circuit Judge Stanley E. Milledge.

Sentenced was Jesse Carver, 24, of Rochelle and Fitzgerald, Ga., a farm worker who said he was in Miami on a construction job when he attacked the girl. He pleaded guilty, rather than face a jury trial.

Hughlan Long, assistant state attorney, told the court that the girl was abducted in her family's car the night of Aug. 24 and driven to a lonely spot near Richmond Heights before being stripped of her clothing and assaulted by Carver.

At the time, Long said, the girl's mother and stepfather were in a bar at NW Second ave., and 22nd st. The victim claimed she was asleep in the auto when Carver entered and drove off.

Family Visits Prisoner, Finds Him "Unafraid" But "Hurt"

BY GEORGE M. COLEMAN

Frederick Mosley, 26-year-old gospel singer, was granted a 30-day stay of execution yesterday, only two days before he was scheduled to die in the electric chair at Reidsville Prison in Tatnall County.

The stay was revealed by Hugh C. Carney, chairman of the State Board of Pardons and Paroles. He said that Governor Marvin Griffin had granted the stay "so that we can study the record."

A spokesman from the offices of Attorney William Hall, said that Mosley's attorneys had sought a reprieve from the governor Tuesday evening. Mr. Hall is working on the case along with Atty. Clyde Henley.

Daily World

Mosley was scheduled to die by electrocution June 17 for the alleged rape of a 20-year-old white woman at Andy's Cleaners 161 Bell St. N. E., December 15, 1953.

His attorneys have carried several appeals to higher courts; all of which have been turned down. In fact Mosley was re-sentenced last month to die by electrocution after an appeal had failed.

VISITED BY FAMILY

The imprisoned man was visited Sunday by his wife, Mrs. Eva Mosley, who declared she found her husband unafraid but hurt by the way things had gone for him.

"He said he was not afraid to die," she revealed, "but was just hurt about the whole thing."

The young housewife and mother of a 15-month-old child, declared "he was still praying."

Mosley has steadily denied any part in either of two criminal assaults he has been charged with.

NEW EVIDENCE

Since he was scheduled to die June 17, evidence was uncovered that one of the white women who had pointed out Mosley had earlier identified another man as her attacker.

Thurs. 6-16-55

Both men reportedly were pick-

Atlanta Ga.

Mosley was arrested about two months after the other suspect was released. Evidence consisted mainly in both cases on identification by the alleged victims.

The Fulton jury which convicted him consisted of all white men, who heard two white women declare he had attacked them.

Citizens Continue Program To Save Mosley From Chair

Daily World
Sun 12-4-55

Frederick Mosley has been re-sentenced to die by electrocution, but efforts to save him and clear his name have not ceased.

Death sentence was handed down by Fulton Superior Judge E. E. Andrews, who set the death date as December 9. Mosley was not brought back from Death Row in Reidsville Prison for resentencing.

Attorney William Hall prepared to file an extriordinary motion and a new trial and make an official plea at the Georgia Board of Pardons and Paroles.

Mr. Hall explained that some of the evidence gathered in Mosley's behalf was not presented after a habeas corpus hearing request was withdrawn. It was withdrawn after a similar case met defeat in the Supreme Court.

The evidence was described as being a little weak for presentation in an extriordinary motion but might help the case when presented with other facts.

Evidence, which can be corroborated by members of the police department, alleges that all available facts in the case were not presented at the trial, or at subsequent hearings that immediately followed.

It is believed that the former attorney in the case knew of such evidence immediately after the trial.

Mosley was convicted after two white women pointed him out as the man who had criminally assaulted them. It was learned later that one of the women had described her attacker as being a much larger man than Mosley, while the second had already identified another man who had an alibi at her attacker.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Eva Mosley, the convicted man's wife, and her family prepared to go to Reidsville, Ga., to visit her husband.

Says Twice-Covicted Man Had No Chance To Chalienge Jury

Daily World
Tues 12-6-55

WASHINGTON — (INS) — The Supreme Court ordered a new trial Monday for a Georgia Negro twice convicted and sentenced to die on the charge of raping a white woman.

The defendant, Amos Reece of Cobb County, Ga., argued that his Constitutional rights were violated because he was not allowed to challenge the legality of the grand jury that indicted him on the grounds that Negroes were excluded.

The State of Georgia held that Reece had missed chance to challenge the Grand Jury because he had not acted prior to his indictment as required by state law.

In a unanimous opinion written by Justice Tom Clark, the court held it was "utterly unrealistic to say" that Reece had had an opportunity to raise his objection in advance of the indictment because no lawyer was provided him until the next day.

Atlanta, Ga.

EXCLUSION ISSUE

Reece also raised the issue of Negroes being systematically excluded from the Grand Jury. The Supreme Court did not decide on this question but said there was enough evidence "to make a strong showing" to that effect.

The U. S. Supreme Court's action reverses the conviction in the Reece case and directs Georgia courts to consider a request for dismissal of the indictment against Reece. Should the indictment be dismissed, there is the possibility of a third indictment and trial.

Sol. General Luther C. Hames, of Marietta, prosecuted Reece at both his previous trials. He has vowed to repeat his actions if the case is returned to him.

Before the case can be returned to Hames and the Cobb County Superior Court, however, the Georgia Supreme Court must act.

RECORD OF CASE

Reece was first convicted by the trial court in Cobb County on Oct. 20, 1953. A second trial in the same court resulted in another conviction on June 22, 1954. The crime he is accused of reportedly occurred on Oct. 20, 1953, while Reece was an inmate at a Georgia Public Works camp.

While working on a road, Reece allegedly stopped at the house of a white woman for a drink of water. The state charges that Reece, finding the woman alone, committed the rape assault.

In somewhat similar cases before the U. S. Court, the high tribunal by a vote of 6 to 3, refused to order new trials for three Louisiana Negroes whose claims were based on the same grounds as Reece's.

These cases applied to John Michel, who was convicted May 28, 1953, and to Clifton Alton Poret and Edgar Labat, who were convicted in another trial on Feb. 27, 1953.

In a decision from which Chief Justice Earl Warren and Associate Justices William O. Douglas and Hugh Black dissented, the court decided that the three defendants did have enough time in which to challenge the grand juries which indicted them.

High Court Hits at Cobb Attack Trial

Constitution
Tues. 12-6-55
P 7

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5 (AP)—The Supreme Court said today a Negro twice convicted of raping a white woman in Cobb County, Georgia, was improperly denied a defense lawyer until the day after his indictment.

Atlanta, Ga.

The high court also said the Negro, Amos Reece, may have been denied his constitutional rights because no Negroes served on either the grand or trial juries in his case.

27o(2)

APPEALS TOO LATE

But in two other appeals based on charges that Negroes were systematically excluded from serving on grand juries in New Orleans, the Supreme Court rejected pleas for new trials by a 6-3 vote. The court majority agreed with Louisiana that the three men awaiting death for rape had not raised the question in time.

In the Reece case the tribunal reversed the conviction and directed Georgia courts to give full consideration to a request for dismissal of the indictment against the Negro.

NEW TRUE BILL?

Reece had been sentenced to die in the electric chair.

Dismissal of the indictment would not preclude a third indictment and trial.

At Marietta, Sol. Gen. Luther C. Hames Jr., who prosecuted Reece at both his trials, said that if the case is returned to him "I certainly will prosecute him again."

Hames said the U.S. court had reversed the Georgia Supreme Court, which upheld Reece's conviction, and that the Georgia court must act before the issue is returned to the Cobb County court.

The prosecutor said that as far as he knew the question of counsel had never been raised in the pleadings. "It seems that the court has ruled on this on its own volition," he said. He said Negroes were on the jury panels for both of Reece's trials although none actually served on the juries.

The rape occurred Oct. 20, 1953, while Reece was an inmate of a Georgia public works camp. While working on a road, Reece stopped at the house of a white woman for a drink of water. Finding her alone, the state said, he committed the rape.

The court's 6-3 decision on the New Orleans cases applied to John Michel, who was convicted May 28, 1953, and to Clifton Alton Poret and Edgar Labat, who were convicted in another trial on Feb. 27, 1953.

Gospel Singer To Die Friday If Attorneys Fail In Attempts

Daily World
Thurs. 12-15-33

BY GEORGE M. COLEMAN

This may be Frederick Mosley's last day on earth.

All future chance of life depends on his lawyers, their success or failure with the Georgia Board of Pardons and Paroles, and with an Extraordinary Motion asking for a new trial.

The Extraordinary Motion was filed yesterday afternoon by Attorney William Hall, one of Mosley's defense attorneys. He filed the motion with Judge E. E. Andrews, in whose court Mosley was convicted.

Atlanta Ga.

The latest date of execution set by Judge E. E. Andrews, was Dec. 16 (Friday), a little more than a week before Christmas, and many people, including some members of law enforcement agencies have attempted to intervene in his cause.

Mosley, a young gospel singer, was first told he was to die by electrocution October 9, 1934. He has been in jail since them, most of the time in Death Row, Reidsville State Prison, where electrocutions are held.

An all-white jury named his penalty for allegedly assaulting a young white woman on Dec. 15, 1933 at a Bell St. Laundry. Her testimony was coupled at a trial by the declaration of a second white woman, who also accused him of raping her.

Since then evidence has been reportedly uncovered which shows the second woman's testimony may not be true. It has also been reported that this was known before Mosley went on trial for his life.

Informed sources said officials now must decide to what extent the second woman's testimony allowed in the trial only to show method and similarity in crimes, prejudiced the 12 white men.

The Atlanta World has been informed several times that one of the women had also identified another man as her attacker, and secured a sworn statement to such effect. This statement was backed up by testimonies of two white policemen who had also figured briefly in the case.

All hopes for the condemned father of a young girl, has not been abandoned. It will be remembered that he gained additional time last July 13, only two days before execution was to have taken place.

This was shortly before the valiant stand by Gospel singers here who came to Mosley's aid with funds, to pay lawyers to continue with the case.

Two Convicted of Raping Girl, 12

EASTMAN, Ga.—Two white men were convicted here last week of the rape of a 12-year-old girl. [illegible] Wimberly was given [illegible] years and his brother, Albert G. received one to two years.

Fred Mosley Gets A Christmas Gift

Daily World

The new trial hearing set for January 3rd., for Fred Mosley, the gospel singing youth who was thrice snatched from the electric chair, will enable him at least to enter into another year of life. Mosley, prior to his incarceration was the member of a singing team whose tours have stirred the religious fervor of many a soul.

Atlanta, Ga.

Having had the misfortune of being picked out of a line-up by a white woman as her attacker, after she had previously picked out another, it was thought by many he also could be the wrong person. In that wide sentiment for his commutation has been aroused and in no uncertain tone, petitions and prayers have been sent up for young Mosley.

Sat. 12-22-33

Also this fact caused George Coleman of the editorial staff of this paper to go beyond the call of duty. After considerable effort on his part and with the assistance of other members of the staff, he was able to find the man who was previously identified as the alleged attacker. We command Reporter Coleman for his efforts.

It is certain that all lovers of justice and fair play will share in the joy of Fred Mosley as he beholds a new ray of hope; a new lease on life.

So, Fred Mosley gets a Christmas package.

Sentenced For Assault In Glynn

BRUNSWICK, Jan. 20 (AP)—A Glynn County Superior Court jury convicted John Lee Riser, 26-year-old Brunswich Negro, of the rape of a middle-aged white woman near here Nov. 29.

But the jury recommended mercy and fixed Riser's sentence at 20 years.

The case was marked by the surprise evidence of a 16-year-old white girl who told of being assaulted twice by a man whom she said har a voice like Riser's. She testified the alleged assaults occurred Dec. 4 at the same place the middle-aged woman was attacked.

Sol. Glen Thomas said Riser was not indicted for the girl's alleged rape because of the question of full identification, but he said her evidence showed the pattern of operation by Riser.

In both the assault on the woman, a divorcee, and that of the girl, Riser was alleged to have locked their male companions in the trunks of their automobiles.

The defense contended that identification of Riser by witnesses was not conclusive.

Waiter Receives Ten-Year Term In Attack Case

A 33-year-old Negro waiter received heavy prison terms in Fulton Superior Court Wednesday for an attack on a white woman here.

The Negro, Eugene Stafford of a Highland avenue, NE, address, entered guilty pleas to charges of assault with intent to rape and assault with intent to murder in connection with the attack.

Judge Virlyn B. Moore sentenced Stafford to a term of five to 10 years on the rape charge and levied a sentence of 10 to 10 years on the attempted murder count. The sentences will run concurrently.

Stafford was charged with attacking a white woman March 21 after she returned to her automobile following a visit to the hospital.

Veteran Freed In Statutory Attack Case

MILLEN, Ga. —(SNS)— A 22-year-old Korean War veteran, charged with statutory rape of a 13-year-old girl, was released this week and cleared of charges, the World learned recently.

Hugh Powell, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Powell, was released Tuesday after the Jenkins County Grand Jury returned a No Bill, which meant there would be no prosecution under the present indictment charge.

Mrs. Powell said yesterday officials had learned the child was not actually 13 as previously stated when the girl's mother brought charges, but was 14. She will be 15 the second day of June, Mrs. Powell said.

The veteran's mother quoted officials as saying the child being under the age of consent was the only reason he had been arrested at all.

The youth was defended by Attorney Sidney Lanier, of Atlanta, Ga.

Young Singer Was Convicted Of December, 1953 Assault

BY GEORGE M. COLEMAN

A 24-year-old Atlanta singer, convicted of assaulting a white woman nearly a year ago, was re-sentenced to die by electrocution Monday, amid a background of sideline controversy between his white attorney and officials of the Atlanta chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Fulton Superior Judge E. E. Andrews sentenced Frederick Mosley, former Gospel Harmoneers singer, to die June 17 at Reidsville Prison in Tatnall County, for the alleged December 15, 1953 rape of a 20-year-old woman at Andy's Cleaners, 161 Bell Street, N. E.

Meanwhile, newspapermen were seeking a second man, who may possess information which could lead to a possible trial for Mosley. Informed sources have indicated that Mosley was brought to trial after the white woman had identified another man as her attacker. Evidence had shown that the former man could not have assaulted her, it was understood.

At the same time efforts to secure a new trial for the defendant have failed since his first conviction last October 7, during which the NAACP has not played any part in proceedings, although they were once invited to do so by Mosley's mother.

LAWYER SHUNS NAACP AID

After the conviction, Mrs. Cora Mosley appealed for help from the NAACP, but Attorney Clyde Henley made it clear that he would not continue in the case if the organization came in.

Recently, NAACP officials said, Atty. Henley appealed for NAACP support, but the group voted to remain outside the case.



FREDERICK MOSLEY

It was October 6, 1954 when Mosley father of a young child was in the defendant's chair in Superior Court Judge E. E. Andrews' Court beside his wife while two white women pointed him out as the man who allegedly attacked and raped them in laundry pickup stations where they worked in Negro neighborhoods.

He was arraigned on an indictment charging him with the December 15, 1953 rape of a 20-year-old woman at Andy's Cleaners, 161 Bell Street, N. E.

Mosley was arrested the following July after the second assault had allegedly taken place on May 4 at a Royal Laundry pickup station at 506 Chestnut St., N. W.

COURTROOM SCENE

A packed courtroom divided about evenly white and Negro heard both women describe in detail how they were forced into submission after pointing out Mosley as their attacker. Both also accused him of taking money and the one who acted as a witness declared "he bragged that I was the second woman" he had raped in two weeks in laundries.

Even though the Defense Attorney Clyde W. Henley objected to the [illegible] of such evid[illegible] declaring it wou[illegible] the jury, Judge [illegible] objection on the jury that it was be[illegible] solely to show similari[illegible] and motive.

Mosley denied both charges and declared "I don't have anything to hide." He told the court no one "in his right mind" would attempt to commit such a crime, and certainly not a father of a seven-and-a-half-month-old baby who would know he would be leaving the child to starve. "I don't have nothing but my wife and kid. God knows I didn't do it," he told the court last year.

Earlier in the trial last year, the woman in whose name the trial had been conducted, was recalled and asked to identify several police officers. The defense held that she was unable to identify them, but could identify a man she allegedly had seen only once.

Jury Mulls Girl Slaying On July 11

By BERT SPENCER

A warrant charging Willie Grady Cochran with the murder of a 14-year-old Rome Girl was sworn out over the weekend in Bartow County.

Erwin Mitchell, solictor-general of the Cherokee Circuit, Superior Court, said he will ask the Bartow Grand Jury to return an indictment against the 36-year-old parolee when it meets July 11.

Mitchell said he would ask that Cochran's trial be scheduled July 14 in Cartersville if the indictment is returned.

Police said Cochran had admitted the kidnaping, assaulting and pistol-slaying of the girl.

A warrant charging the parolee with kidnaping of the girl was sworn out in Floyd County Friday. Floyd Sol.-Gen. Chastain Parker said he would call for an indictment on that charge when the grand jury meets July 11.

Mitchell said Cochran, now in Fulton Tower in Atlanta, will be returned to Cartersville sometime next week, where the court will appoint counsel for the defendant if he has not already retained an attorney.

The solicitor said he saw no danger in returning Cochran to Cartersville or to Rome. He said he felt reports of potential mob violence against the man were "greatly exaggerated."

Meanwhile, Dr. Herman Jones, state crime doctor, said the report of his autopsy on the victim will be ready Tuesday. The girl's body was pulled from the Etowah River at Milam Bridge Saturday.

GEORGIA NEWS ROUNDUP

Willie Cochran Indicted In Rome Girl's Slaying

Constitution P.3
Atlanta, Ga. Jan. 7-12-53

Willie Grady Cochran, 37-year-old paroled sex criminal, was indicted at Cartersville Monday in connection with the murder and rape of a 14-year-old Rome girl. His trial on the murder indictment was set for 9 a.m. Thursday.

At the same time, a Floyd County grand jury in Rome indicted Cochran on a charge of kidnaping the teen-ager from her home there June 20.



In Atlanta, meanwhile, Cochran was moved to another cell in the Fulton County jail, after he and a prisoner under death sentence tore up plumbing fixtures in their maximum security cell. Police said Cochran is being held there "for safekeeping."

Cochran, who was paroled last December after serving only nine years of a 20-year sentence for rape, admitted luring the Rome teen-ager from her home, then assaulting and shooting her in Bartow County, police said. The girl's body was found, five days later, in the Etowah River where Cochran told police he threw it, officers said.

In Rome, Judge Mack G. Hicks suggested to the Floyd grand jury that it urge revision of state laws affecting convicted sex criminals. He said he had no criticism of the Georgia Pardon and Parole Board, commenting that they were operating under existing state laws.

killed when he fell into some machinery at the mill. . . . A murder charge has been filed against Judge Johnson Jr., 30-year-old **Athens** Negro in the fatal shooting Sunday of Bennie Frank Walton, 30. . . . H. G. Samples of **Wheeler County**, charged with the May 3 hit-run death of two-year-old Jimmy Ray Dennis of **Eastman**, has been released under $10,000 bond. . . . Mayor R. A. Griffin of **Bainbridge** says he has been notified by officials of the South Georgia Natural Gas Co. that natural gas service is expected to be made available to **Bainbridge** and **West Brainbridge** about Aug. 1. . . . According to figures recently released by the Georgia crop reporting service, **Seminole County** is Georgia leader in average cotton and lint production per acre.

Fayetteville Election

July 13 has been set by the **Fayetteville** as the date of a city election to elect a mayor and members of the city council. Harry P. Redwine is the only candidate for mayor and seven other men are seeking the five positions on the city council.





Associated Press Wirephotos

WILLIE G. COCHRAN — PATRICIA ANN COOK

Alleged confessed slayer and his victim

Ex-Convict Admits Rape-Slaying Of Girl, 14, Rome, Ga., Police Say

Tells or Tossing Body In River

Atl. C. 1-25-53

Rome, Ga., Jan. 24 (U.P.)—A paroled ex-convict today admitted the rape-slaying of a 14-year-old girl he said he lured from a backyard sun bath with a promise to take her swimming.

Police said Willie Grady Cochran, 37, a sawmill worker, blurted out his confession when they neared an isolated northwest Georgia bridge after a night of driving around to similar lonely spots.

P. 2

Dragging Ordered

Rome Police Chief Smith Horton and Floyd County Sheriff Joe Adams said Cochran said he raped blond, blue-eyed Patricia Ann Cook, strangled her on "an impulse," and then tossed her body, wrapped in a quilt and weighted with a monkey wrench, from the bridge into the Etowah River.

Horton immediately ordered dragging operations begun in the river in an effort to recover the girl's body. Cochran was taken to Atlanta for safekeeping as feeling was reported running high here since the girl disappeared four days ago.

Cochran, who was sentenced to a total of some 30 years for offenses ranging from robbery to rape since he was first arrested in 1940, was formally charged with kidnaping.

Police said Cochran, who had been released on parole just six months ago today, had resisted intensive interrogation for two days.

According to his confession, Cochran saw the girl applying sun-tan lotion in the yard of her home Monday as he drove by. He returned to the house, asked for directions to another house when she came to the door still clad in a bathing suit, then proposed he take her swimming.

Parents at Work

Her parents were at work at the time.

Police quoted him as saying the girl put on a robe and went with him in his pickup truck. Cochran drove past the swimming pool and turned off into the woods near where he had worked at a sawmill.

Cochran confessed he raped the girl before he strangled her.

8952

RAPIST-ROBBER SUSPECT FACES $150,000 BOND

A bond of $150,000, the highest ever fixed by a Cook county grand jury, was set yesterday for an ex-convict facing 10 charges of robbery, four of rape, and one of assault.

He is Ernest Cornes, 22, of 257 N. Francisco av., who was arrested last Thursday and accused as the rapist-robber who preyed on couples in parked cars on the west side and in two western suburbs. His case was taken directly to the grand jury by State's Atty. Gutknecht, who bypassed the usual procedure of arraignment in felony court.

"This speedy action was taken because I consider this man one of the most vicious criminals ever apprehended here," said Gutknecht.

Seized After Accident

Cornes was arrested as the result of a traffic accident. His car struck a truck at 14th st. and Cicero av., Cicero. Cornes fled after the accident. In the auto, which had no license plates, police found a woman's wristwatch and two traffic tickets made out to Cornes.

He was arrested at his home by Cicero police and Detectives Joseph Sidlo and Al Dooge of the Warren av. police. Police traced the watch to an Oak Park woman who identified Cornes as the man who attempted to molest her Dec. 12.

Five women, including one who had been raped only a few minutes before Cornes was involved in the accident, identified Cornes. All were in autos with their escorts when Cornes held them up, they told police.

The grand jury reportedly returned true bills on each of the 15 charges and set $10,000 bond on each charge.

Quiz On at Airport

Police yesterday questioned employes at Midway airport in an attempt to find a clue to the man who kidnaped, beat, and raped a 22 year old woman ticket agent Saturday night. The rapist seized her as she was entering her car at Keating av. near 59th st. and kept her captive three hours before pushing her from her car near 51st st. and Lawler av.

Capt. Michael Spatz of the Chicago Lawn police said the stolen car, which was found Sunday in the rear of 7139 S. Ashland av., was being examined for fingerprints. He said a piece of wire which the rapist used to bind the wrists of the woman was also being examined to see if it was the type used by airport mechanics in repair work.

She was taken to the Clearing Emergency hospital, where doctors took six stitches in her head and was later removed to the West Suburban hospital.

RAPIST, 17, HELD GUILTY, DEALT 17 YR. TERM

James Shelton, 17, of 6343 Ingleside av., was found guilty of raping a married woman in a bench trial before Judge Edward B. Casey in Criminal court yesterday. He was sentenced to 17 years in prison.

The victim was seized near 60th st. and Kimbark av. last March 16 and dragged to an alley and into a vacant garage. Shelton was arrested the next day when police found the name of an acquaintance in a jacket he left when he fled. He confessed.

During the trial he denied the crime, stating that the jacket had been stolen from him a half hour before the assault. He was identified by the victim, who had been hospitalized for nine days after the attack.

Bond of $300,000 Reported Set for Four Young Rapists

Bonds totaling $300,000 are required under 12 robbery true bills reported voted by the county grand jury yesterday against four teen-age hoodlums who confessed kidnaping and raping a 47 year old widow Saturday night.

The four, rounded up after a reporter's tip led police to pick up one of them, are Sherman Dantzler, 13, of 10869 Racine av.; Lawrence Black, 15, of 1135 Throop st.; Lloyd Powers, 15, of 1453 W. 108th st., and Golden McMath, 15, of 10981 Racine av.

Named on 3 Charges

The case was presented to the grand jury by Assistant State's Atty. Cecil Partee. Each of the boys was reported named on three robbery charges, with the bond on each charge fixed at $25,000. Their arraignment in Criminal court has not been set.

Petitions also were filed against the four in Family court for delinquency hearings. Illinois statutes bar prosecution of a defendant under 16 on a rape charge. State's Atty. Gutknecht has announced he would seek to have the age limit lowered to 14.

Both Women Robbed

The reported true bills were based on the fact that the four admitted robbing the widow, who is a telephone operator, and her companion, 61, a telephone supervisor, of a total of $108, and confessed a previous holdup of a floral shop.

The women were on their way home from the Wentworth telephone exchange building and were getting into the supervisor's auto at 63rd st. and Stewart av. when the four hoodlums, two of them armed, grabbed them. The widow was beaten and raped. The supervisor was slugged with a gun.

HOUSE VOTES PROSECUTION OF RAPISTS AT 14

Approves Prison for Offenders

[Chicago Tribune Press Service]

Springfield, Ill., May 3—House members voted, 108 to 13, today to reduce the minimum age at which youthful criminals can be imprisoned for rape.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Romano [D., Chicago], now goes to the senate. It changes from 16 or over to 14 or over, the age at which a person may be indicted for the crime of rape.

Effect of the proposed law would be to send young rapists to prison rather than to the Illinois youth commission for treatment. Rape, murder, treason, manslaughter, and kidnaping are crimes for which judges may sentence youthful felons to prison. The penalty for rape is from one year to life.

"Inexcusable," Romano Says

Romano, in asking for passage of his bill, argued that the crime of rape, at 14, "is inexcusable."

"It is prompted by lust, which civilized people have learned to control," he said. "They [such offenders] must also learn to control lust. Punishment must be sure and swift to curtail crime.

"If any boy of 14 years of age has the capacity to commit this crime, he has the capacity to be punished."

Rep. Kidwell [D., Mattoon], a former state's attorney, said that J. Edgar Hoover, head of the federal bureau of investigation, has issued figures showing there is a decline in the ages of crime.

Compared to Wolf Packs

"These young potential hoodlums travel in groups like wolf packs, attacking women of all ages," Kidwell said.

Rep. Greene [R., Chicago] said the bill is no solution to juvenile delinquency.

Rep. Robinson [R., Chicago] termed the legislation a "step backward."

The senate has pending other proposals for changing the rape law, including one which would set up a death sentence for the crime in aggravated cases.

The house gave final legislative approval, 143 to 0, to a bill to give amateur radio operators special automobile license plates on payment of an additional $3 annual fee. The plates would carry the call letters of the owner's station. The bill now goes to the governor.

Advance Bonus Bill

A proposal to pay a bonus to veterans in service during the Korean war was advanced to passage stage in the house after Rep. Choate [D., Anna], key sponsor, succeeded in beating down the proposal.

Rep. Dunne [D., Chicago] sought to amend the proposal so that veterans who served in the actual Korean theater would receive the payments. The house voted, 85 to 19, to table the amendment.

Attempts to amend the appropriations bill, including striking part of proposed capital improvements at the state fair grounds, were beaten.

Matron Sues Chicago Cops For $75,000

CHICAGO—(ANP)—A 24-year-old Evanston, Ill., mother of three children has filed a $75,000 suit in US District court against two Chicago policemen she claims forcefully sought to have sexual relations with her.

Mrs. Mildred Paden charges in her petition that police officers Bernard Coffey and Patrick Cody forcibly removed her from the apartment of a friend on Chicago's south side last April 15 following an alleged search for narcotics. After finding no drugs, she said, they ordered her to leave with them with the assurance that they were going to take her to her car and see that she returned to Evanston.

Mrs. Paden petition further states that instead of carying out their previously announced intentions, they put her in a patrol wagon and forced her to go on a joy ride around the city until she was lost. The officers then demanded that she have sexual intercourse with them and tried to forcibly undress her, Mrs. Paden charged. When she refused to have anything to do with them, they put her out of the patrol wagon in an area unknown to her, according to the petition.

After blundering around for some time, Mrs. Paden says she met some boys and asked them where she was and how she could get back to the place which she was taken. The boys brought her back and she got into her own car and drove to her home in Evanston.

Shortly thereafter, the case was reported to local police authorities which resulted in the suspension of both police officers. Last Wednesday, the policemen were scheduled to appear before the police trial board for a hearing in City Hall. However, at the very last moment, their cases were continued to September.

The damage suit was filed under the civil rights statutes and was assigned to Judge John P. Barnes, senior jurist in Northern Illinois U. S. District court. Atty. William Henry Huff, representing Mrs. Paden said that no court date has been set as yet.

For Assault

YOUNG RAPIST DRAWS 25 YEAR TERM IN PRISON

Fate of 3 Companions Up to Commission

One of four teen-agers who admitted kidnaping and robbing two telephone operators and raping one of them was sentenced to 25 years in prison by Judge Arthur J. Murphy in Criminal court yesterday.

The sentence was on a rape charge. The defendant, Golden McMath, 16, of 10981 Racine av., also was committed to custody of the Illinois youth commission for robbery. The prison term, however, takes precedence.

Judge Murphy also committed the other three to the commission's custody for robbery. They are Lawrence Black, 15, of 11351 S. Throop st.; Lloyd Powers, 15, of 1453 W. 108th st., and Sherman Dantzler, 14, of 10869 Racine av.

Penalty Up to Commission

The commission decides the specific punishment of offenders committed to its custody. On a robbery conviction the maximum penalty could be life imprisonment.

The robbery charge was the only one brought against McMath's companions. At the time of their arrest the Illinois statutes exempted juveniles under 16 from prosecution for murder or rape.

State's Atty. Gutknecht called the statutory provision "a cockeyed law" and a bill was introduced in the general assembly at his behest to lower the age of exemption from 16 to 14.

Kidnap Two Women

The kidnaping victims, a 47 year old widow and her 61 year old co-worker, were seized the night of April 9 while they were getting into their automobile at 63d st. and Stewart av. on their way home from the Englewood telephone exchange.

The defendants, two of whom carried guns, drove to a south side alley, where the younger woman was attacked.

Rape-Slaying Of Girl, 8, Is Admitted

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Dec. 1 (U.P.)—A husky, 29-year-old cab driver today confessed he raped an 8-year-old girl in a Canton, Ill., railroad yard last Saturday and then beat her to death when she threatened to tell her mother.

Lloyd E. Miller Jr., signed a confession after eight hours of intensive questioning. He was confronted by his 24-year-old sweetheart, who said he had told her of committing the crime.

Miller said he came upon the little girl, Janice May, whom he knew, as she was walking from her home to join two older brothers at a playground.

"She said hello and was joyful," Miller said. "She walked with me to the railroad tracks."

Miller admitted he molested Janice and she started screaming and crying. She said she was going to tell her mother.

"I went hysterical," Miller said. "I struck her with my hand and she fell and hit her head on a cement block."

The cab driver said he tried to hide the girl under a railroad car and then fled to an abandoned house, where he discarded some of his blood-stained clothing.

The little girl's brothers, led by their dog, found her a short time later. She died in a few hours without recovering consciousness.

Miller said he went back to work as usual a few hours after the slaying.

Miller, who has a record for car theft, came under suspicion when he disappeared from Canton. He told police he drove to Pekin, Ill., where he abandoned his cab, and then took a bus to Danville, Ill. He was arrested in Danville Monday night as he tried to buy a bus ticket for Evansville, Ind.

Fulton County States Attorney Blaine Ramsey said Miller would be charged with murder.

Man given life for attack on girl, 11, freed

27e(2)

Indiana court hits conduct of public defender at trial

INDIANAPOLIS (Ind.) (ANP)—The highest court of this state last week overturned the conviction of a man who was sentenced to life imprisonment for assaulting a 11-year-old white girl. The reversal was by split decision, 3-2.

Grounds for the reversal was the gross negligence of the public defender who failed to ask for a jury, failed to use the court reporter and failed to subpoena witnesses who were with Thomas Hillman the night the girl said she was molested.

Hillman was convicted Oct. 7, 1953. Cecil A. McCoy and Richard A. Smith attorneys, filed motions for a new trial Jan. 19, claiming Hillman had not had a fair one.

The appeal for a new trial charged that a confession was signed after Hillman had been beaten by a policeman, that the services of the attorney appointed by the court to defend him were less than perfunctory and that since there was no steno - graphic report of the trial, Hillman was unable to prosecute an appeal from conviction.

tence Hillman, represented by Attys. Cecil A. McCoy and Richard A. Smith, filed a petition asking the court to grant him a new trial because of alleged unfairness.

The petition said a purported confession was signed by Hillman after he had been beaten by a police officer.. It was also claimed that the services of the attorney appointed by the court to defend him were inadequate and that there was no stenographic report of the proceedings at the trial.

At the hearing on the petition last January 19 it developed that the victim, afer viewing Hillman for five or six minutes, said he was not the one she claimed had molsted her. Hillman's plea to the charge was not guilty.

Attorney McCoy, who prepared and prosecuted the appeal, said that the Fort Wayne branch of the NAACP had been vindicated in its support of the case.

Indiana Court Grants Retrial In Rape Case

FORT WAYNE, Ind. — The Indiana Supreme Court, Tuesday, handed down an opinion reversing the judgment of the Allen Circuit court and granting a new trial to Thomas Hillman, now serving a life sentence for rape of an 11-year old white girl.

Hillman was convicted on October 7, 1953. He was represented by public defender.

After conviction and life sen-

Man Sentenced to Life Without Parole for Rape

A Criminal Court jury yesterday ordered life imprisonment without privilege of parole for Everett Alphonso Ford, accused of raping a General Hospital therapist.

He was one of three men charged with raping the 28-year-old woman.

On March 10, Robert Lee Sheckles, 19, was found guilty in the case and was condemned to death.

Trial of the third man, Clarence A. White, 21, was set yesterday for May 17.

Police reported the three men grabbed the woman at Jackson and Madison about 7 p.m. December 16 after she left the hospital to walk to her car. The woman told police the men drove her in her car to a near by park where they attacked her.

Ford, 20, of Buechel, testified in court he was present when the woman was raped, but said he did not rape her.

He said he was cut on the ear in a scuffle with Sheckles in an argument over use of the car.

The jury in Judge Frank A Ropke's court deliberated an hour and 20 minutes before reaching a verdict.

Rape Conviction Of Minister Upset

Frankfort, Ky., May 21 (AP)—The Court of Appeals today reversed Harold W. Meland's conviction of raping a girl inmate of a Breathitt County children's home where he was director.

Meland had been given a life sentence.

The tribunal sent the case back to Breathitt Circuit Court, Jackson, for a new trial.

The opinion said Meland was convicted of raping the girl, who then was slightly more than 12 years old, while he was director of the home in 1949. It referred to him as a minister but did not state the denomination.

The conviction was reversed, the opinion said, because of what the court adjudged improper, prejudicial argument to the trial jury by Commonwealth's Attorney J. Douglas Graham.

Young Rapist Is Sentenced To Die Oct. 28

Criminal Court Judge Frank A. Ropke yesterday formally sentenced Robert Lee Sheckles, 20, to die in the electric chair at Eddyville Penitentiary on October 28.

Sheckles, 1600 S. 31st, was found guilty by a jury of raping a 27-year-old General Hospital employee.

Sentenced to life without parole in the same case yesterday were Robert Alphonse Ford, 24, Buechel, and Clarence Anthony White, 21, of 435 E. Madison.

The victim had testified that on the night of last December 16 Sheckles and his two companions forced her into her own car, parked on East Madison, and drove her a short distance to a park where they raped her.

7 GI's Indicted Here for Rape Of Girl, 12

Seven Fort Knox soldiers were indicted yesterday on charges of raping a 12-year-old girl in a hotel room September 10.

The seven, all privates, are Gary L. Lane, 18, W. H. Adams, 19, David O. Carroll, 21, Delmer H. Thibault, 20, Jedson L. Simoneau, 18, Larry E. Ashley, 18, and Wayne Baumhofer, 19.

Three other soldiers, each 17, were also arrested on rape chrges in the case. They have been turned over to Juvenile Court authorities.

Civilian Also Arrested

A civilian, Lawrence R. Maynard, 24, of 618 W. Kentucky, has been arrested on a charge of contributing to the delinquency of the girl. His case is scheduled to be heard October 5 in Juvenile Court.

Police said Maynard was with the girl after she spent the night in the hotel room where the soldiers allegedly raped her. Maynard denied he was with her.

Nine of the 10 soldiers, police said, have admitted having relations with the girl, but said it was with her consent. The 10th denied having relations with her.

Preacher To Face Trial Next Week In Rape Case

Corbin, Ky., Oct. 6 (AP)—A 45-year-old mountain preacher, accused of raping a young girl, once a ward of a children's home he founded, will go on trial in Whitley Circuit Court next Wednesday.

The man, John Vogel, was indicted last April 19. He was accused of repeatedly raping a girl, now 19, over a four-year period. He pleaded innocent. Later, a second indictment for raping a child at Galilean Children's Home was returned.

Card Started 'Home'

After attending Moody Bible Institute in Chicago years ago, Vogel and his wife, Mrs. Marguerite Vogel, came to Corbin and rented a one-room log cabin for $2.50 a month.

Soon after, they received a postal card asking them to care for an unwanted baby whose mother was dying.

They accepted the child and gradually more and more children were taken in by the preacher and his wife.

On July 13, 1939, the Vogels and Miss Josephine Charbonnier, St. Louis, a graduate of Brooks Bible Institute, incorporated the home.

The home is said to be the only one of its kind in the world not supported by any church, State, or private endowment.

The home is 14 miles from here. At the end of last year 84 children were being cared for by the home. Funds for operation, Vogel said, are unsolicited. Vogel is no longer associated with the home.

No Rules on Acceptance

As word of the work the Vogels were doing spread, food and bundles of clothing came in. Gifts and cash were taken to the home.

There are no rules for the acceptance of children. About the only requirement is the child must be an orphan or unwanted.

When asked how he managed to keep up support of the wards, Vogel replied, "We're proving that God will hear and answer prayers."

Girl Accuses Director Of Home at Rape Trial

Says Preacher Forced Her To Be Intimate With Him 4 Years From Time She Was 15

Williamsburg, Ky., Oct. 12 (AP)—A former ward of a children's home at Corbin testified today she was forced at 15 to have sexual relations with mountain preacher John Vogel, its director.

Miss Ruby Powell, now 19, also said Vogel warned her she would go to jail for five years if she told anyone.

For the next four years, she testified, Vogel forced her to have relations with him against her will.

Has Pleaded Innocent

Vogel, 45, was indicted for rape last April and again in June. He pleaded innocent.

Miss Powell testified that, after the relationship became a "regular procedure," Vogel told her, "Ordinarily this would be wrong for the rest of the world, but not for us, because I have had an unhappy married life."

Vogel, an unordained minister, and his wife, Mrs. Marguerite Vogel, separated last February.

Miss Powell said she told Mrs. Vogel and two former employees at the home of the incidents last September, and that she left the home October 11, 1954.

After the State wound up its case, Vogel took the stand in his own defense.

Denies Girl's Charge

He denied forcing the girl to have relations with him. He said Miss Powell came to the home when she was 4 and he frequently had to discipline her for violating its regulations.

He testified that the disciplinary action "made hard feelings toward me."

Vogel and his wife went to Corbin from Illinois in the '30's and rented a one-room log cabin.

They began caring for unwanted and orphaned boys and girls.

The Galilean Children's Home was incorporated in 1939 and now cares for 86 children.

Special Judge K. S. Alcorn is presiding at the trial in Whitley Circuit Court.

Jury Is Hung In Rape Trial Of Preacher

Second Hearing Set For Jan. 10 by Judge

Williamsburg, Ky., Oct. 14 (AP)—A Whitley Circuit Court jury, trying mountain preacher John Vogel on a rape charge, was dismissed today when it was unable to agree on a verdict.

Special Judge K. S. Alcorn polled the jurors individually and each said he felt the case was hopelessly deadlocked. Alcorn set a second trial for January 10.

Vogel, 45, is accused of raping a former ward of the Galilean Children's Home near Corbin, which he founded and now directs. He denied the charge.

The State charged that the alleged incidents took place many times over a four-year period while the girl, now 19, was a ward at the home.

Rape Jury Adjourns In Preacher's Trial

Williamsburg, Ky., Oct. 13 (AP)—The jury trying John Vogel, 45-year-old mountain preacher accused of raping a ward of the children's home he founded adjourned tonight without reaching a verdict. The girl, now 19, no longer is at the home.

The jury considered the case only 42 minutes and will resume deliberations tomorrow morning.

The case went to the jury after closing arguments by opposing lawyers were heard.

Vogel is accused of repeatedly raping Ruby Powell over a four-year period while she was a ward of the Galilean Children's Home near Corbin.

Indicted In April

Indicted for rape last April and again in June, Vogel, director of the school, pleaded innocent.

In his instructions to the Whitley Circuit Court jury, Special Judge K. S. Alcorn said Vogel, if convicted, could receive a prison sentence of from five to 20 years.

In testimony today, Vogel was described as a "sex maniac" in a letter introduced at the trial.

Miss Powell testified that she wrote the letter to another former ward, Marie Cottrel.

Eight children who have lived at the home testified that Miss Powell's reputation for telling the truth was "bad."

Vogel Denies Charges

Miss Powell yesterday testified that Vogel forced her to have sex relations with him against her consent from the time she was 15 until she left the home last September.

Vogel denied her charges. He told the jury Miss Powell had come to the home at the age of 4 and that he had been forced to discipline her for repeated violations of home regulations. He said the disciplinary actions "made hard feelings toward me."

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LOUISIANA

8955

High Court Denies New Trial For Negroes In Rape Cases

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5 (AP)—The Supreme Court today denied new trials for three New Orleans Negroes convicted of raping white women and sentenced to death.

The decisions applied to John Michel, who was convicted May 28, 1953; Clifton Alton Poret and Edgar Labat, who were convicted in another trial on Feb. 27, 1953.

Justice Clark delivered the 5-3 opinion. Chief Justice Warren and Justices Black and Douglas dissented.

ON WAY HOME

Michel was alleged to have waylaid two white girls on Feb. 10, 1953, as they were on their way home from a carnival parade in New Orleans. He was accused of robbing them, then taking one of the girls to a secluded spot where she was raped three times.

Poret and Labat were convicted of raping Miss Helen Rajek, a New Orleans telephone operator, on Nov. 12, 1950.

Appeals filed on behalf of all three Negroes asserted they were discriminated against because Negroes were systematically excluded from serving on grand juries in New Orleans.

NO OBJECTION FILED

Louisiana contended the Negro exclusion issue could not be raised now because attorneys for the defendants did not file objections to the makeup of the grand juries within a time limit set by state law. This limit, under a Louisiana state supreme court deicision, is three days after the end of a grand jury term.

Justice Clark said the three Negroes had failed to meet this time limitation. Clark added:

"It is beyond question that under the due process clause of the (federal constitution) 4th amendment Louisiana may attach reasonable time limitations to the assertion of federal constitutional rights.

DENIED DUE PROCESS

"More particularly, the state may require prompt assertion of the right to challenge discriminatory practices in the makeup of a grand jury."

Justice Douglas said in a dissent in which Chief Justice Warren and Justice Black joined that he did not believe the Negroes were given the opportunity which is guaranteed by due process of law to challenge the constitutionality of the composition of the juries.

Justice Black in a separate dissent, in which Chief Justice Warren and Justice Douglas joined, said the grand jury was unconstitutionally selected and he would set aside the convictions.

Father guilty

CRAWLEY, La. — Sterling Trahan, white father of three children, was convicted last week of the attempted rape of a colored woman.

An all - white jury found him guilty. It is believed to be the first of its kind in Louisiana. The defendant faces a maximum penalty of 10 years.

stein, and also Assistant District Attorney Edward F. Pinner were determined to select an all-white jury.

• • •

TWO NEGROES were called, Alex James Richard and John Joseph Adams, and both were hastily excused by consent of both the state and defense without any questions being asked.

These were the only two prospective jurors excused in such manner.

The prosecutor explained to the Courier by saying that according to law all trial jurors must remain together at all times and that dinners for the jury were scheduled in the Roosevelt Hotel which does not serve Negroes.

The defense counsel used his last remaining preemptory challenge to disqualify a juror because he was a native of Philadelphia, Pa.

Accused of Attacking Child, Grocer Found 'Not Guilty'

By JOHN E. ROUSSEAU

NEW ORLEANS — An all-white, twelveman jury in Judge Frank J. Echezabal's division of Criminal District Court deliberated slightly more than an hour then returned a verdict of "not guilty" in the case of Merrick Perron, 49-year-old white grocer, formerly of 601 North Rocheblave Street, who was charged with attempted aggravated rape June 17, 1953 on a nine-year-old Negro girl who had gone to the store to make a purchase.

Perron, originally charged June 17, 1953, with "aggravated rape" upon the child, was indicted by the Orleans Parish grand jury July 22, 1953 on a charge of "attempted aggravated rape" in a true bill which proved faulty during the trial in that it failed to state the victim's age.

From the beginning of the three-day trial last Tuesday, it was obvious that Defense Attys. G. Wray Gill and Gilbert Bern-

Convict La. White Man Of Raping Negro

CROWLEY, La. — In a history-making decision, an all-white jury last week convicted a white man of the attempted rape of a Negro woman. It was the first known conviction of its kind in Louisiana history.

27e(2) 1955

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Jurors Fail to Convict

By JOHN ROUSSEAU

NEW ORLEANS — An all-white male New Orleans jury deliberated a mere forty minutes Friday before freeing John (John the Baptist) Cancler, 30, of charges that he had forced a 17-year-old girl into selling her body to Tulane University students.

The verdict was reached after Cancler, self-admitted procurer, described how the girl had been "sold" to four Tulane youths for $15 and some drinks of liquor and soda.

The girl had told the court that she did Cancler's bidding because she was afraid that he would show her mother some nude photographs that he had made of her.

Immediately after the jury brought in its verdict, Judge Frank T. Echezabel ordered Cancler discharged.

The case was broken by New Orleans police in September when Cancler, in the company of the minor girl, was arrested at Napoleon Avenue and Freret Street.

POLICE SGT. Hubert Badeaux testified that an alleged confession made by Cancler was "free and voluntary."

The officer said that Cancler told him the girl "doesn't get anything; she hustles for me; she does what I say . . . boys from Tulane give me money for her . . ."

Cancler had charged that his arrest had been "engineered" by Badeaux because he would not become an informer.

Cancler further accused New Orleans police of beating him in the stomach, chest and back in an effort to force him into becoming an informer.

CANCLER SAID that the girl involved in the case . . . "Had told me she wanted to go to school this semester in Washington, D. C., and wanted to make a little money to finance herself. She asked me to help her. I agreed. I knew what business she was in."

He said that one of the "customers" liked the girl because "she was really stacked," but later, the "customers" stipulated that the girl would have to "come after dark so people can't see her."

Cancler described in detail all of the "action" which took place later, of how the girl requested scotch and milk, but settled for scotch and soda, and how Cancler "got on a chair and peeked in the transom."

Cancler said he did not "threaten her or promise her anything" for her "work."

DEATH SOUGHT IN RAPE CASE

BATON ROUGE (AP)—District Attorney J. St. Clair Favrot said today he would seek the death penalty for two Negroes charged with kidnaping and aggravated rape.

The East Baton Rouge Parish grand jury returned indictments Wednesday against the two, both inmates of the State Industrial School for Colored Youth at Baker, who broke out of the school last Friday, taking a woman counselor with them. They forced her at knifepoint to drive her automobile until it ran out of gas.

Administrators of the State Department of Institutions yesterday agreed to a six point program for maintaining better security at the school.

They outlined the plan after conferring with a five-man delegation from Baker where citizens have protested escapes and the actions of the escapees.

All White Jury Finds White Man Not Guilty Of Raping Negro Girl 9

An all-white, 12-man jury deliberated a little more than an hour before returning a "not guilty" verdict Thursday against a white man in connection with the alleged attempted aggravated rape of a 9-year-old girl June 17, 1953.

Many persons in attendance during the three-day trial in Judge Frank T. Echezabal's division of criminal district court expressed "no surprise" over the jurors' decision.

Freed was Merrick Perron, who was a clerk in his son-in-law's grocery, 601 N. Rocheblave, when the alleged incident occurred.

Attired in the same dark blue suit during the three-day trial, Perron appeared nervous and somewhat shy throughout the trial.

The girl, who is now 11, followed her mother on the witness stand and alleged that Perron tried to take advantage of her after locking the door of the store.

She told how she had gone there to purchase a box of clothes pins for her aunt when the alleged incident took place.

She claimed he released her after noticing a car occupied by his son-in-law and a delivery boy parking outside the store.

Dr. Nicholas Chetta, coroner, said that a purplish area was noticed during his examination, but did not indicate whether the child had been molested.

Also appearing was Dr. Henry Eugene Robinson, who said that members of the family brought the girl to him for an examination. He said he only observed but did not make an internal examination.

Negroes appearing as character witness for the accused man were Mrs. Donald Davis, who said she knew him as the grocer; Mrs. Lizzie Johnson, who said he was nice; Johnny Magee, George Palmer, Mrs. Minnie D. Graves, who said he (Perron) had an excellent reputation, and Rev. Manzie Cheatum of Greater Mount Pilgrim Baptist church, who said that Mr. Perron was "all right with me. I can't speak for others."

Two Negro prospective jurors for the case were dismissed after the prosecutor and defense counsel conferred. It was reported that because the jurors' meals were scheduled for the Roosevelt hotel where Negroes are barred, none were selected.

The mother of the child in a statement following the trial said that she will continue to fight the case until justice has been won.

Continuing, she stated that although her daughter was the (alleged) victim, she is going to continue to fight so that the results may protect some one else's child.

Alleged Rape Victim Fails To Make Court Appearance

BATON ROUGE, La. — (ANP) — A supposed white woman rape victim of teen-age inmates of the State School for Delinquent Boys at Baker, failed to appear in court here last week. As a result of the woman's failure to appear against the youths, the trial of the two boys was indefinitely continued.

The boys have been accused of raping the woman who is the mother of three children. Their arrest and subsequent being brought to trial for the crime has created quite a stir in this southern community. To prevent possible violence, the accused youngsters are being held under close guard in an undisclosed jail in Baton Rouge.

ARGUING STARTS ON INDICTMENTS

High Court Hearing Case of Louisiana Negroes

By PAUL WOOTON

(Times-Picayune Staff Correspondent)

WASHINGTON, Nov. 8 — Argument began Tuesday before the supreme court of the United States on the cases of three Louisiana Negroes allegedly illegally indicted by the Orleans parish grand jury.

District Attorney Leon D. Hubert Jr., his assistant Adrian Duplantier and assistant attorney general Michael Culligan are contending that the indictments are legal.

By appointment of the court Gerard Schreiber, George Fust, Felicien Lozes, Rudolph F. Becker Jr. and Walter J. Le Breton are contending that the Negroes were not legally indicted.

In one case, Edgar Labat, Negro, 33, 1154 S. Galvez, and Alton Poret, Negro, 27, 1422 S. Johnson, were given the death sentence after being found guilty in February, 1953, for the November, 1950, aggravated rape of a 22-year-old white girl in the vicinity of S. Tonti and Thalia.

The second case involves John Michel, Negro, 21, 1419 Milton, who was sentenced to die after being found guilty in April, 1953, for the February, 1953, attack of a 15-year-old white girl near St. Bernard and Florida.

Taking advantage of their presence in Washington the lawyers appeared before the United States Court of Military Appeals and were admitted to practice before that body. Judge Paul W. Brosman, a member of the court, was dean of the Tulane Law school when the applicants were students.

SUPREME COURT TO HEAR HUBERT

Times-Picayune

DA to Appear in Death Penalty Appeals

Tues. 11-1-55

District attorney Leon D. Hubert Jr. and is first assistant, Adrian Duplantier, were in Washington, D. C., Monday to appear before the United States supreme court which is hearing appeals on two aggravated rape cases originally tried in criminal district court.

New Orleans

The cases involve three Negro men sentenced to die for criminal attacks on two white girls in two different cases. The appeals are charging that the indictments were not correct because Negroes were systemically excluded from serving on grand juries in Orleans parish.

P. 7

In one case, Edgar Labat, Negro, 33, 1154 S. Galvez, and Alton Poret, Negro, 27, 1422 S. Johnson, were given the death sentence after being found guilty in February, 1953, for the November, 1950 aggravated rape of a 22-year-old white girl in the vicinity of S. Tonti and Thalia.

Also sentenced to die was John Michel, Negro, 21, 1419 Milton, after being found guilty in April, 1953, for the February, 1953, attack of a 15-year-old white girl near St. Bernard and Florida.

Charges Lie Detector Test Refused Suspect

New Orleans, La.

Sat. 11-12-55

A New Orleans attorney charged that police have refused to give a lie detector test to a 19-year-old Algiers youth lodged in parish prison in connection with the alleged attempted aggravated rape of a 71-year-old white woman last July 14.

Attorney Maurice Gatlin said Monday that awaiting an answer from the district attorney in connection with a recent motion filed in criminal district court Judge William J. O'Hara's division two weekts ago, requesting a polygraph lie detector test for Robert Green with the results to be received in evidence.

Gatlin said a second motion, filed in behalf of Green, asked that the charge against the teenager be quashed because there are no Negroes hired as assistants to the district attorney. However, Judge O'Hara denied the motion, stating that the district attorney can hire capable assistants regardless of color.

He noted that the youth had been freed on a similar charge and the fact that the incident occurred some six blocks from his home made him an easy target for the charges.

Gatlin said that police appeared not interested in wanting to give a test to Green weeks before he filed the two motions.

Inmate Soilcits Funds For Defense In Alleged Rape

New Orleans, La.

A parish prison inmate facing a possible death sentence or life imprisonment on an aggravated rape charge made an appeal last week for the formation of a committee to solicit funds for his defense, claiming he is a victim of mistaken identity.

In a letter to The Louisiana



Weekly, Philip Atlas contends that he is being held in confinement for a crime which he did not commit and is seeking outside aid because he has no one to help him.

Sat. 11-26-55

He is charged with the alleged aggravated rape of a Negro woman, car theft and armed robbery.

Atlas admits that he did not commit the alleged crimes and is the apparent goat, "because I must resemble whoever committed the crime."

He added, "Any cooperation toward my welfare from the public will be gratefully appreciated."

High Court Denies New Trial For Negroes In Rape Cases

Associated

Tues. 12-6-55

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5 (AP)—The Supreme Court today denied new trials for three New Orleans Negroes convicted of raping white women and sentenced to death.

The decisions applied to John Michel, who was convicted May 28, 1953; Clifton Alton Poret and Edgar Labat, who were convicted in another trial on Feb. 27, 1953.

Justice Clark delivered the 5-3 opinion. Chief Justice Warren and Justices Black and Douglas dissented.

Montgomery

ON WAY HOME

Michel was alleged to have waylaid two white girls on Feb. 10, 1953, as they were on their way home from a carnival parade in New Orleans. He was accused of robbing them, then taking one of the girls to a secluded spot where she was raped three times.

Poret and Labat were convicted of raping Miss Helen Rajek, a New Orleans telephone operator, on Nov. 12, 1950.

Appeals filed on behalf of all three Negroes asserted they were discriminated against because Negroes were systematically excluded from serving on grand juries in New Orleans.

NO OBJECTION FILED

Louisiana contended the Negro exclusion issue could not be raised now because attorneys for the defendants did not file objections to the makeup of the grand juries within a time limit set by state law. This limit, under a Louisiana state supreme court deicision, is three days after the end of a grand jury term.

Justice Clark said the three Negroes had failed to meet this time limitation. Clark added:

"It is beyond question that under the due process clause of the (federal constitution) 4th amendment Louisiana may attach reasonable time limitations to the assertion of federal constitutional rights.

DENIED DUE PROCESS

"More particularly, the state may require prompt assertion of the right to challenge discriminatory practices in the makeup of a grand jury."

Justice Douglas said in a dissent in which Chief Justice Warren and Justice Black joined that he did not believe the Negroes were given the opportunity which is guaranteed by due process of law to challenge the constitutionality of the composition of the juries.

Justice Black in a separate dissent, in which Chief Justice Warren and Justice Douglas joined, said the grand jury was unconstitutionally selected and he would set aside the convictions.

RAPE DEFENDANT IS FOUND GUILTY

Times-Picayune

Verdict Automatically Carries Death Penalty

Fri. 12-2-55

Isaac Peart, Negro, 17, 210 Cherokee was found guilty as charged Thursday of raping a 21-year-old white girl in Audubon pk. on July 16.

P. 17

A 12-man jury in Judge Fred W. Oser's section of criminal district court returned the verdict at 5:25 p. m. after deliberating 40 minutes. The verdict automatically carries the death penalty.

New Orleans

Introduced during the trial, which began Tuesday, were oral and written confessions by Peart, which were accepted by the court as evidence.

Police said that on the night of the attack the girl and a male friend drove their car to Audubon pk. about 11 p. m. after attending a movie and having lunch at a nearby restaurant.

They had been parked about two or three minutes when a Negro appeared from the trees and held them up by pressing to their backs an object he said was a pistol.

After taking the man's initialed wallet containing a $10 bill, the Negro raped the girl on the back seat, keeping her companion at bay by threatening to kill her.

Screams of the couple after the Negro left attracted police in the park and Peart was arrested on Magazine near Jefferson within 15 minutes after the attack. He was identified by the girl and the wallet was found in his clothing, police said.

17, Pleads Guilty To Raping Girl, 15

LYNN, Mass., June 14 (AP).—A seventeen-year-old AWOL soldier pleaded guilty to rape and assault with a dangerous weapon in District Court today after his arrest and identification by a fifteen-year-old girl.

Pvt. Robert W. Allen was held in $25,000 bail. Judge William J. Landergan set hearing for June 28 if the girl improves, and also entered a plea for Pvt. Allen on the charge of assault with intent to kill.

The girl, Geraldine Trenholm, was reported in fairly good condition in Lynn Hospital. Pvt. Allen had been taken to her room and identified as the youth who attacked her, dropped a seventy-two pound rock on her and left her for dead on Kings Beach in Lynn Harbor last night, police said. Police said he was due at Fort Dix, N. J., Sunday night.

"I just killed a girl," he told police in a telephone call after he fled to his home. His mother refused to believe him before he called police.

Police Sgt. John F. Malone said, Pvt. Allen told of meeting Geraldine yesterday. They went to a movie and later ate at a restaurant near the harbor, he told police. They went to the rear of another restaurant and Pvt. Allen grabbed the girl and began choking her, Sgt. Malone quoted the youth as saying. He dragged her to the water's edge, and covered her with his coat, Sgt. Malone said. He dropped the huge rock on her and fled, he was quoted as saying.

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MISSISSIPPI

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Defense Attorney Pushes Case

Accused GIs Appeal Goes To High Bench

'Insanity' of Airman in Mississippi Casts Shadow of Doubt Over His Conviction in Biloxi Rape Trial

Courier 9-2

EDITOR'S NOTE—The conviction and death sentence of Walter Johnson, 17, former Chicago airman assigned to Keesler Air Base, Mississippi, for rape, is by no means an ordinary case. The Courier has gone behind the scene to give readers a true picture of Mississippi's "majestic" justice. Johnson was scheduled to die in the gas chamber March 3, but his court-appointed attorney has filed an appeal with the United States Supreme Court.

By JOHN H. ROUSSEAU

(Final in a Series)

GULFPORT, Miss.—Preceding chapters have told how Walter Johnson, 17, Chicago, Ill., an airman stationed at Keesler Air Base, Biloxi, Miss., was charged with aggravated rape March 30, 1954, upon a 29-year-old married white woman, was convicted June 30, 1954, and was sentenced to die in the lethal gas chamber Aug. 25, 1954.

An appeal to the State Supreme Court gained a stay until March 3, 1955, and a further reprieve has been granted pending outcome of Johnson's appeal to the United States Supreme Court.

Johnson was allegedly attired in women's clothes at the time and was accused of approaching the "victim" and her 15-year-old sister, holding both in fear of their lives at knifepoint, making them undress, fondling both, and finally committing one perversion and aggravated rape upon the married woman.

Without funds, the youth took the pauper's oath and the Harrison County Court appointed Atty. R. D. Wiggington as defense counsel.

granting certain instructions to the jury for the state and in denying other instructions for the defense.

* * *

THE INSTRUCTION refused for the defendant by the Court stated:

"The Court instructs the jury for the defendant that if you believe from the evidence or lack of evidence that the prosecuting witness did not try to protect herself from attack, even if you convict the defendant, you may and should give strong consideration to this fact and fix only such punishment on the defendant as such lack of effect on her part, in your judgment warrants."

* * *

ANOTHER BILL of Exceptions avers:

"Newly discovered evidence that the defendant was not legally sane at the time of the commission of the said offense and at his trial, and that he was insane as applied to said particular crime of rape at the time of the alleged commission of said offense, during the trial thereof and at the present time; that the defendant nor his attorney knew or realized that said defendant was so insane, nor could they, or either of them, have discovered such fact by due diligence and effort on their part.

"That such evidence could have been obtained only by a mental or phychological examination and a clinical interview of the defendant . . ."

* * *

EXCERPTS FROM Dr. Deabler's report on Johnson, which is part of the appeal to the United States Supreme Court follows:

"Briefly, the story shapes up something like this, that the defendant was very closely attached to his mother, the father was killed. How it happened out of that very close relationship which I clinically believe did take place, was an early overdevelopment of the sexual impulse, an identification with a person of the opposite sex and this has resulted in two things. It has developed in overstrong sex impulse and it has also resulted in his taking on feminine ways and being attracted to feminine things along with this, there has been a failure to develop what we would call a health conscience—a sense of right and wrong.

"... And the father was killed, according to his story, and the mother remarried when he was very young, partly to give him a father, but the stepfather proved not to be a real father and there was tension that rose between them.

"The sense of right and wrong, we know psychologically, comes in a great way from the youngster's parents. The mother had over-accepted the boy, tried to compensate for the shortcomings of the father."

* * *

POINTING OUT that the first act attributed to Johnson in connection with the alleged crime was oral perversion, Dr. Deabler said:

"My own feeling is that it is an immaturity problem here; a boy that has not grown up and that has strong immature sexual impulses had not brought around the conscience needed for their control. These are the dynamics of the case . . . the boy was not fully conscious of the consequences of his act. He was driven by this overwhelming sexual urge.

"There was not the sensitivity of right and wrong connected with it and my own feeling is in terms of legal insanity—which is somewhat different from our own conception of insanity."

The final bill filed in the appeal states:

"In all the annals of the criminal jurisprudence in Mississippi no white person has ever been subjected to the death penalty for the crime of rape, and for such penalty to be inflicted on a 17-year-old Negro boy incapable of distinguishing between right and wrong and involuntarily devoid of a conscience as applied to the crime charged against him, is contrary to law, violative of due process and of the Constitution of the State of Mississippi and of the United States of America; also it is grossly discriminatory for this Negro defendant in company with others of his race to be selected exclu-

Johnson's defense.

Meanwhile, an unidentified white Biloxi businessman appropriated necessary money to have Johnson examined by a phychiatrist.

The youth's mother is Mrs. Ann Lindsey, 660 East 101st Street, Cleveland, Ohio.

Bills of exception reserved during the trial charged that no Negroes were in the grand jury panel which indicted Johnson; no Negroes were on the trial jury; that, various actions of the judge were prejudicial; that, the verdict and sentence were not in keeping with the evidence: that, the judge erred in

...ively to illustrate the majesty of Mississippi law in 'its stately stepping' from the courtroom to the gas chamber."

LIFE TERM ORDERED ON ASSAULT CHARGE

Commercial Appeal

Young Sidon Negro Convicted In Greenwood Court

JURY CANNOT AGREE

27e(2)

Special to The Commercial Appeal

GREENWOOD, Miss., May 20.—Leroy Potts, 30-year-old Sidon Negro, was convicted Friday afternoon by a Circuit Court jury of charges of rape of a white woman of the community that occurred the night of Dec. 21, 1954.

The jury found Potts guilty but could not agree as to punishment. Judge Arthur Jordan sentenced the Negro to life imprisonment.

Dragged From Home

The defense ended its case Friday morning and arguments to the jury ended at noon.

Attorneys for the prosecution were Dist. Atty. Stanny Sanders and county Prose Atty John J Fraiser Jr. Thad Bourn appointed Norman C. Brewer and Paul Montjoy attorneys for the defendant.

The victim of the attack testified Potts drove to her home in a pickup truck and tried to gain entrance. When refused he drove away and returned on foot, broke the latch on the door and came in. She testified the Negro jumped in the bed in which she and her 15-year-old daughter were occupying. The daughter fled for help while the Negro dragged the victim out of the house to an adjoining field where he assaulted her.

Seen In Field

The daughter went to a neighbor's home and told what had happened. Sheriff George Smith, Deputy Sheriff John Ed Cochran, and two neighbors soon joined in the search.

Sheriff Smith testified that when he and Mr. Cochran flashed their lights into the field where the attack was being committed, Potts jumped up and ran across the field. He said the Negro had the woman by the throat and she was muddy from the struggle in the field.

The Negro was captured later and confessed. He had been kept in an undisclosed jail until the trial started Thursday.

Life Sentence For Rape Of White Woman

27e(2)

GREENWOOD, Miss. — (ANP) — A Mississippi Negro has been sentenced to life imprisonment for the Dec. 21, 1954 rape of a Sidon white woman. Leroy Potts, 30-year-old resident of this southern community, was sentenced last week following the less than two-hour deliberation of the Leflore county circuit court jury.

Potts, former employe of a Sidon grocery, was found guilty as charged by the jury which failed to agree as to the punishment to be meted out to the defendant.

Attorneys for the prosecution were District Attorney Stammy Sanders and County Prosecutor John J. Fraiser Jr. Norman C. Brewer and Paul Montjoy, attorneys, were appointed by the court to defend Potts.

The...victim of the attack testified that Potts entered her home and dragged her into a nearby field where she was criminally assaulted. Her 15-year-daughter escaped and fled for h... A neighbor called Sheriff Geo... Smith and he and Deputy Sh... Ed Cothron captured Potts. ...lowing his arrest Potts ma... written confession to the ... This confession was later ...ed as evidence against him.

Fearful of reprisals, ... have kept Potts in an un... jail since the incident hap...

Court Refuses To Review Case Of Negro Airman

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(NNPA)—The United States Supreme Court Monday refused to review the conviction and death sentence of a 17-year-old airman, who was addicted to wearing female clothing.

The airman, Walter Johnson, who was stationed at Keesler Field, Biloxi, Mississippi, of rape. The jury did not recommend mercy and the death penalty was mandatory.

SYSTEMATIC EXCLUSION

Through the NAACP his case was brought to the United States Supreme Court on the question of systematic exclusion of colored persons from grand juries in Harrison County, Mississippi.

The NAACP contended that the decision of the Mississippi Supreme Court upholding Walker's conviction was in clear conflict with decisions of the United States Supreme Court. It asserted that Walker's conviction and sentence to death were affirmed in the face of uncontradicted testimony of systematic exclusion of colored persons from grand juries in Harrison County.

Harrison County has a colored population of 15,491 persons, its 20,652 white population, and has 1,500 colored registered voters among 26,000 white voters.

The NAACP said it is "incredible" that no colored persons, except two six years ago, qualified for jury service in 35 years if racial discrimination was not practiced.

The case grew out of the complaint of a 20-year-old white girl and her 15-year-old sister on March 20, 1954, that they were accosted on a main street in Biloxi by a colored man in woman's clothing and compelled to enter a vacant shed off the street at knifepoint.

The "woman" forced the older girl to submit to an unnatural sex act and then to intimate relations.

Shortly after their release the 20-year-old girl complained to the police. An alarm was sent out and a few minutes later Johnson was stopped for questioning at Keesler Field, to which he was returning with a bundle of woman's clothing under his arm.

NEW TRIAL

He was examined and found to have been wearing woman's underclothing. The chief clinical psychologist at the Veterans Hospital in Gulfport, Mississippi, later testified on motion for a new trial that Johnson is a "transvestite" (one addicted to wearing garments of the other sex) and had developed sexual deviations at an early age.

The psychologist also testified that Johnson "was not conscious of right and wrong" and had "strong uncontrollable compulsion and a tendency to secure pleasure on immature levels of erotic gratification."

Mississippi Man Gets Life

GREENWOOD, Miss. (ANP) — A Mississippi Negro has been sentenced to life imprisonment for the Dec. 21, 1953 rape of a Sidon white woman. He, Ivy Potts, 36-year old resident of this southern community, was sentenced last week following the less than two-hour deliberation of the Leflore county circuit court jury.

Potts, former employee of a Sidon grocery, was found guilty as charged by the jury which failed to agree as to the punishment to be meted out to the defendant.

Attorneys for the prosecution were District Attorney Stammy Sanders and County Prosecutor John J. Fraiser Jr. Norman C. Brewer and Paul Montjoy, attorneys were appointed by the court to defend Potts.

The supposed victim of the attack testified that Potts entered her home and dragged her into a nearby field where she was criminally assaulted. Her 15-year-old daughter escaped and fled for help. A neighbor called Sheriff George Smith and he and Deputy Sheriff Ed Cothron captured Potts. Following his arrest Potts made a written confession to the crime. This confession was later entered as evidence against him.

Fearful of reprisals, officials have kept Potts in an undisclosed jail since the incident happened.

DEATH PENALTY SOUGHT IN TRIAL

Young Mother Identifies Alleged Rapist

(Special to The Times-Picayune)

LAUREL, Miss., Oct., 6—Charged in a grand jury indictment with the rape of a young Laurel mother of a one-year-old baby girl, Theldor Lang, 30-year-old Negro went on trial for his life in circuit court here Thursday.

It was late in the afternoon before the trial jury was finally accepted and first testimony for the state will not be concluded until Friday.

District Attorney Grover Doggette and County Prosecutor Percy Sullivan will seek the death penalty they said. The state charges that Lang invaded a Laurel home on an August night in 1954 and raped the young mother after threatening death to her and her baby unless she submitted.

In recent preliminary hearings before county Judge B. Frank Carter, the dark-haired blue-eyed and attractive 21-year-old woman pointed out Lang as the rapist. She will again take the witness stand for the prosecution and give her version of the crime.

The state has also summoned 14 other witnesses, many of them city and county police officers. A total of 20 witnesses have been summoned by the defense, many of them from the state witness list.

Lang in his preliminary hearing, was represented by two Jackson Negro attorneys, but when arraigned on the rape charge in circuit court, he said they no longer represented him and that he was without funds to employ counsel.

Meeting a state requirement wherein a defendant in a capital case cannot go to trial without legal counsel, Judge Lunsford Casey appointed Jeff Collins and Luther Austin, Laurel lawyers, to act in defense of Lang.

Mississippi Executes Knife-Wielding Rapist

PARCHMAN, Miss., Aug. 19 (AP)—Walter Johnson, convicted teen-age rapist died in the state gas chamber shortly before noon.

Johnson, 18, dressed as a woman, stopped two young white women. Testimony at the trial showed he held a knife on them and raped one.

The attack occurred March 30, 1954. Johnson was arrested 45 minutes later.

A native of Chicago, Johnson was a radar student at Keesler Air Force Base here at the time of the attack.

NEGRO ASKS NEW TRIAL

Man Convicted Of Rape Files Motion

LAUREL, Miss., Oct. 20.—(AP)—An attorney for Theldor Lang, 32-year-old Negro sentenced to life imprisonment for raping a white woman, Thursday filed a motion for a new trial.

Attorney Luther Austin said he based his motion on the grounds that the judge erred in giving instructions to the jury and refused some defense instructions.

In addition, Austin said, Dist. Atty. Grover Doggette was prejudicial to the defendant during his argument to the jury when he referred to him as a Negro and to the rape victim as white.

Lang was convicted two weeks ago of threatening death to the woman and her child if she resisted his advances last year. She identified Lang as the rapist.

Rape Try Brings Sentence of Life

(Special to The Times-Picayune)

KOSCIUSKO, Miss., Sept. 27—Bean Thompson, 50, Negro, was sentenced to life in prison Tuesday for the attempted rape of an 11-year-old Negro girl.

The attempt took place Friday at Thompson's home after the girl had been left in his care by her stepfather.

Thompson, a service station attendant, has a criminal record including a term in the state penitentiary.

The grand jury was reconvened Monday to hear evidence in the case, a rare event in court history.

Paul Edwards, whose case was also disposed of Tuesday, was given a deferred sentence until next term of court after pleading guilty to two counts of forgery.

Henry L. C. Simmons, Negro, who pleaded guilty to assault and battery charges, received a one-year suspended sentence at the county farm.

Frank Coleman, Negro, was sentenced to six months at the county farm for petty larceny.

Negro in Assault Case Is Executed

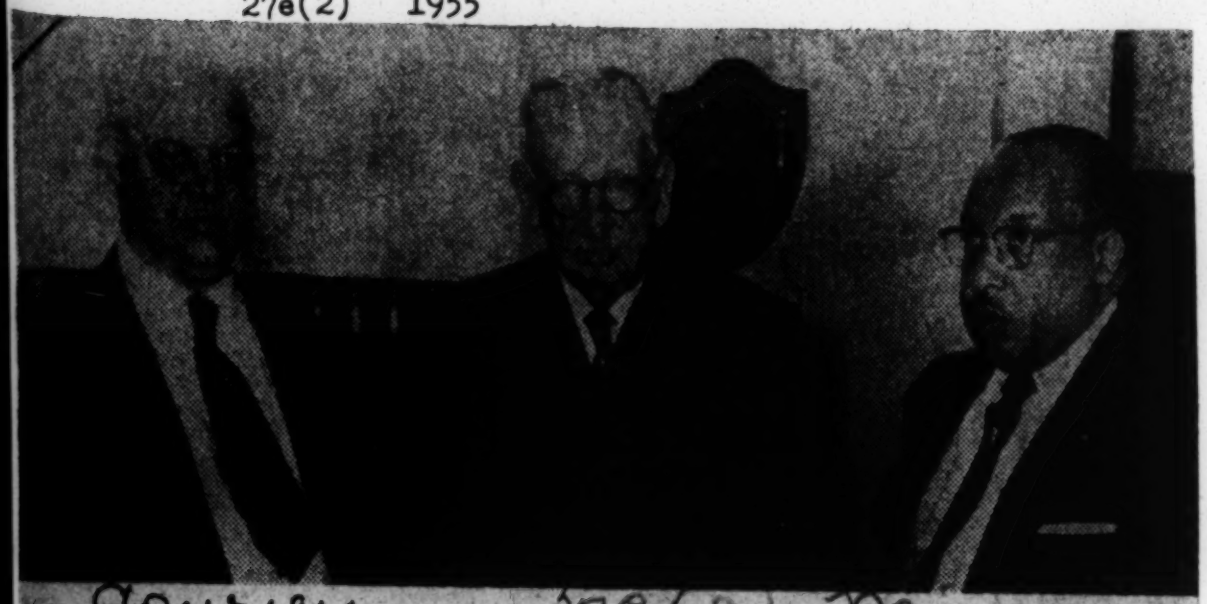
PARCHMAN, Miss., Dec. 16 (AP)—Mose Robinson, a Negro farm hand, died in Mississippi's gas chamber Friday for the rape of a white woman who sought his assistance after becoming lost in Humphreys county.

An unidentified Negro preacher, who accompanied Robinson to the gas chamber, said the condemned man told him he had "made my peace with the Lord and I'm ready to go."

Sheriff Ike Shelton said the 21-year-old Negro went smiling to his death at 2 p. m. He died in six minutes.

Robinson was sentenced to die for raping the wife of a New Orleans physician last year.

The woman became lost while driving from Clarksdale to New Orleans and stopped Robinson to ask directions. He raped her in a cotton field while another Negro stood by.



Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.
Sat. 4-23-55

27e(2) Miss

Plan Johnson's Appeal—

Conferring in New Orleans on legal strategy to save the life of Walter Johnson, 17-year-old Chicago airman, sentenced to the gas chamber for rape in Biloxi, Miss., left to right, are Atty. A. P. Tureaud Sr., New Orleans, of the NAACP; Defense Counsel Robert D. Wigginton, Biloxi, Miss., and the Rev. Robert H. Tucker, pastor of St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church, Biloxi, Miss.—Lunnon Photo.

EX-CHICAGO GI EXECUTED FOR RAPE IN SOUTH

Daily Defender
Chicago, Ill.
8-19-55

Parchman, Miss., Aug. 19 (AP) —Walter Johnson, 18, convicted rapist, died in the state gas chamber today. Johnson, dressed as a woman, stopped two young women on March 20, 1954. Testimony at the trial showed he held a knife on them and raped one. Johnson, who formerly lived at 662[illegible] S. Drexel av., Chicago, was a radar student at Keesler air force base here at the time of the attack.

NAACP In Appeal For Boy of 17

Say Airman Did Not Get Fair Trial In Mississippi

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The U. S. Supreme Court was asked last week to save the life of a 17-year old Negro youth convicted and sentenced to death by an all-white Mississippi jury.

The request was made in a petition filed with the high Court by attorneys for NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund who charge that the youth, Walter Johnson, an airman stationed at the U. S. Air Force Base at Keesler Field, Miss., was denied his constitutional right to a fair and unprejudiced trial.

Johnson was arrested March 30 following the complaint of a 20-year old white resident of Hamilton county and her 15-year old sister. They claimed they had been accosted on a main street of Biloxi by a Negro man dressed in women's clothing and compelled to enter a vacant shed off the street at knife point. The older girl accused him of having sexual relationships with her.

Shortly after the alleged attack, an alarm was sent out. Johnson was stopped as he was returning to the base at Keesler Field carrying a bundle of women's clothing under his arm. Upon close examination, he was discovered wearing women's underwear. He was arrested and confessed to committing the act.

Upon later examination at the U. S. Veterans Hospital in Gulfport, Miss., he was found to be mentally ill and "not conscious of right or wrong." However, he was tried and convicted for the crime of rape without recommendation of mercy. The penalty for rape in Mississippi is death.

An appeal was made on January 3, 1955 to the Mississippi Supreme Court asking for a new trial on the grounds that Johnson had not received a fair and just trial. The motion was denied.

In their petition to the U. S. Supreme Court today, NAACP Legal Defense attorneys ask that the high Court reverse the Mississippi Supreme Court's denial and order a new trial for the Negro airman on the grounds that he was convicted by a jury from which members of his race were systematically excluded.

"It has been the clear and consistent rule of the court that a conviction of a Negro upon an indictment handed down by a grand jury from which Negroes are systematically excluded violates the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. This proposition has been repeatedly reaffirmed," the lawyers state.

They also point out that only two Negroes have qualified for jury duty in Harrison County in 35 years, despite the county's 13,421 non-white population.

The costs of Johnson's mental examination and expert testimony on his mental state in the Mississippi courts was paid for by two white residents of Mississippi who felt that the Negro youth is "mentally sick and morally and legally irresponsible" for his act. "No white man has ever suffered death for rape in Mississippi," they say.

Johnson was defended in the lower court by a court-appointed attorney who admitted that he had not tried a capital case in 25 years and does not regard himself a criminal lawyer.

In appealing to the Mississippi Supreme Court for a new trial, the lawyers handling the case contended that if the District Attorney had not been so determined on the death penalty, and the state not given the jury the understanding that it was demanding and expecting the death penalty, the sentence might have been different.

"It is doubtful if there could possibly be a more intense and passionate prejudice than that of a Southern white man against a Negro, any Negro, sane or insane, who violates the person of a white woman: we understand (and perhaps we even share) that invincible prejudice; it is easy to inflame, as it certainly was in this case—just as a lighted match thrown into an open tank of gasoline," the Mississippi lawyers argued.

". . . white citizens who are really as much concerned to save the good and fair name of Mississippi from what they honestly believe would become and be a scandal and a disgrace, as they are to save the life of a 17 year old sex-crazy Negro boy. Killing the boy off is an easy thing to do—perhaps he would be better off, but the State of Mississippi could ill afford to take the easy way out. The problem is not that simple, although it may seem that simple to the average juror."

NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund was asked to intervene in the case following the Mississippi Supreme Court denial

Doomed to Gas Chamber

Claim Flaws In Testimony Against GI

Study of Walter Johnson's Trial Discloses Startling Facts Not Mentioned in Appeal to High Court

EDITOR'S NOTE—The conviction and death sentence of Walter Johnson, 17, former Chicago airman assigned to Keesler Air Base, Mississippi, for rape, is by no means an ordinary case. The Courier has gone behind the scene to give readers a true picture of Mississippi's "majestic" justice. Johnson was scheduled to die in the gas chamber March 3, but his court-appointed attorney has filed an appeal with the United Staes Supreme Court.

By JOHN E. ROUSSEAU

(Third in a Series)

GULFPORT, Miss.—Last week's account of the actual testimony of the alleged "rape" victim and her sister indicated little, if any resistance. However, such was the principal evidence which caused a twelve-man, all-white Harrison County jury to find 17-year-old Walter Johnson, former Chicago airman, guilty June 30, 1954, of rape, and to sentence him to death in the gas chamber.

Johnson's execution, set for [illegible] 1954, was appealed July 9, by his court-appointed counsel, Atty. R. D. Wigginton, a practicing lawyer in the county for some fifty years. The appeal, based on nine bills of exception filed during the trial, was denied by the State Supreme Court and is presently in the United States Supreme Court.

• • •

A STUDY OF the "fair and impartial" trial of Walter Johnson discloses several startling facts which are not mentioned in the appeals. First, the court appointed Attorney Wigginton to defend Johnson on June 18, 1954, only ten days before the trial began. The question [illegible] whether or not the defense attorney had adequate time to prepare his case.

Secondly, trial jurors empaneled were: Ulmer J. Cuevas, David L. Shavers, John T. Eeds, Buren Cuevas, Paul Rouse, Henry V. Delancey Jr., Kermit Cuevas, Rayford McMillan, Clifton Ladner, Frank Sztmanski, Floyd J. Marie and P. H. Aufdemort, "good and lawful men of Harrison County, Miss. It is noted here that three trial jurors bear the same surname, "Cuevas," which could indicate relationship and could prove a barrier to a fair, independent and impartial consideration of the case by each individual juror.

The appeal now before the United States Supreme Court states, regarding the alleged "confession" admitted into evidence during Johnson's trial:

"The court erred in allowing the admission of the alleged confession of the defendant over the objection of his counsel, the said confession having been obtained by a large number of police and other officers just about ten after the defendant's confinement in jail, as said confession was obviously obtained from the defendant, who was only seventeen years of age, when he was naturally over-awed, frightened and intimidated and in no mental and emotional condition to make a voluntary condition. The court also erred in admitting a second alleged confession."

• • •

THE "VOLUNTARY confession" stated, in part, "My name is Walter Johnson. I am 17 years old, and stationed at Keesler Field, Miss., and in Student Squad, Serial No. AF16452111. I have been advised of my rights by Assistant Chief of Police Walter Williams of the Biloxi, Miss., Police Department, and giving this statement to Walter Williams and Mrs. Ola Mae Balius of the Biloxi Police Department and know that anything I say in this statement can and will be used in court against me . . ."

This "voluntary confession" is supposedly in the actual words and language of the 17-

...ence Johnson. It goes further to coincide practically to the details of the alleged sexual experiments described from the witness chair by the "victim" and her sister.

A section of his "confession" which the jury heard and evidently believed, states:

"... I saw two white girls walking North on Lameuse st. I went into a yard until they passed me, then I walked out wearing a dress I had stolen off a clothes line and asked the girls for some information and they told me what I wanted to know and they started walking again.

"Then I started walking behind them. I caught up with the girls and opened a switchblade knife and told them to keep walking and go with me. I made both girls take their clothes off. I had a desire to (censored) the girl and did. I do not know which girl it was. After I (censored) the girl I had entercourse with her."

* * *

"WHILE I WAS doing this, I had the other girl setting down with all the close off of her but her slip. Then I played with her breast a while. Then I told the girls to put on their clothes and they did and I made the two girls walk with me.

"I walked with them for about a block, then I told the two girls to hold hands and walk in another direction. Then I walked to Gate One at Keesler Field and was picked up by the Air Police and questioned then brought to the Biloxi Police Department where I gave this statement."

This "confession" the jury heard and apparently believed despite the fact that it was necessary, under law, to consider whether it were possible for Johnson to hold two women in mortal terror with one switchblade knife—never relenting for a moment—while he alternated sexual maneuvers with both. It is pointed out, too, that the statement shows no resistance by the alleged victim but almost willing participation.

The natural question, therefore, is: Would there have been any reported "rape" at all had there not been the problem of "one sister having something on the other?"

* * *

ANOTHER POINT worthy of consideration is the presence of several misspelled words in the alleged confession. If Johnson's "confession" were verbal, then the person who took the statement would have spelled the words correctly. If he wrote the statement himself, he would not have spelled the word "clothes" correctly in one instance, then misspelled it ("close") later. This could be construed as the actual writer of the statement seeking to effect a "Negro" dialect.

Bill of Exception Number Four is particularly significant in determining the fairness of the trial. It states:

"The court erred in excusing Preston Scarborough from the jury over the objection of the defendant's counsel after he had been qualified by the court and accepted by the state and was about to be accepted by the defendant; that the fact that said juror volunteered information that he had a deep prejudice against capital punishment did not disqualify him after his acceptance, as he had previously stated that he would inflict capital punishment if the facts justified such; that every civilized juror has a prejudice against capital punishment, which accounts for its rarely being inflicted by a jury; that the court's action in excusing said juror substantially prejudiced the defendant, in that the inevitable impression made on the remaining jurors was that their belief and readiness to inflict capital punishment was their most important qualification.

"That the court's act unintentionally stimulated prejudice in favor of capital punishment and rendered the death penalty certain, and on the Voir Dire examinations the jurors were asked if they would inflict the death penalty if the defendant was proven guilty as charged—such questions by the District Attorney were hugely prejudicial."

* * *

SIMILARLY, Bill Number Five appears to have merit when it states: "The verdict was against the overwhelming weight of the evidence. The evidence showed without conflict that the prosecuting witness failed to make the effort the law requires to prevent her ravishment, and certainly failed to use the means within her power to prevent it; that such fact was ignored by the jury in rendering its verdict and fixing the punishment at death ... the court erred in refusing the instruction that is the law."

Bill Number Six, states: "The verdict, and particularly the punishment fixed, was the result of bias, passion and prejudice on the part of an all-white jury against the Negro defendant."

Bills of Exception Numbers Eight and Nine which allege that Johnson was not mentally responsible and that he is being subjected to the extreme penalty because of race will be discussed in the following and final chapter.

Supreme Court Refuses To Review Assault Case

WASHINGTON—(ANP)— ... Robinson faces death in ... for the alleged rape of a white woman on a plantation near Bovina in July of last year.

The death sentence imposed upon him by a lower court in Mississippi and upheld by the State Supreme Court last March still stands since the Supreme Court refused to review the case.

The charge against Robinson was brought by Mrs. William W. Wells-

...er, wife of a Hammond, La., doctor and the mother of two children. She claims to have been on the plantation because she lost her way while returning from Clarksdale.

The case was brought to the U. S. Supreme Court on the grounds that Robinson was given a hasty and unfair trial without proper counsel, and that his confession was not given freely and voluntarily.

Mississippi Roundup—

Supreme Court Affirms Negroe's Death Sentence

JACKSON, Nov. 28 (U.P.)—The State Supreme Court today affirmed the conviction of a Negro sentenced to die for assaulting a white woman and set Jan. 3 as the date of his execution.

Robert Buchanan, convicted in Hinds County Circuit Court of breaking into a home April 4, 1954 and ravishing a 30-year-old mother of three children, confessed to the police after he was arrested on a burglary charge. He did not take the stand in his defense.

The woman testified she was sleeping in the house alone when she was awakened by a Negro man who threw her back on the bed and threatened to kill her if she spread an alarm. The woman said she went next door and told her mother who was visiting neighbors.

The high court also ruled that the dependents of a man killed in the Dec. 5, 1953 tornado at Vicksburg is entitled to workmen's compensation.

E. C. Evans was working on a construction job for Pigford Bros. Construction Co. when the tornado struck, killing 37 persons. Evans was decapitated.

Pigford and Western Casualty Co. claimed that the position of Evans was no different from the general public but the high court said the fact that Evans was on the job would entitle his widow and three children to benefits under the Workmen's Compensation Law.

PLEA IN ASSAULT CASE OVERRULED

Attacker Sentenced to Die in Gas Chamber

(The Times-Picayune Capital Bureau)

JACKSON, Miss., Nov. 28—The state supreme court Monday ordered Robert Buchanan, Jackson Negro convicted of raping a Gibson, La., white woman here last year, to die in the state's lethal gas chamber on Jan. 3.

All justices on the court voted to overrule nine points raised in Buchanan's defense in the appeal of the death sentence case.

According to the evidence, the Louisiana woman was raped while she was visiting the home of her mother here.

Attacker Threatens Victim

The Negro man, evidence showed, entered the house through an unlocked back door at night and surprised the woman while she was sleeping. When she screamed, he threatened to kill her if she gave any further alarm.

Buchanan was arrested several months later during an investigation of a series of burglaries and questioned about the rape case because of the similarity of entering and leaving the houses in all instances.

The Negro gave a full confession of the crime in the presence of both Negro and white ministers and a group of newspapermen.

In another decision, the supreme court ruled that the family of E. C. Evans, a construction worker killed during the December, 1953 Vicksburg tornado, were entitled to recovery of workmen's compensation benefits for his death.

Evans Decapitated

Evans was decapitated by a boat rudder which was swept up by the tornado and hurtled through the air.

Pigford Brothers Construction Company claimed that Evans' position at the time he was killed was no different from the general public and was not connected with his job.

But supreme court Justice William N. Ethridge Jr., said the court felt the injury arose out of Evans' employment. At the instant he was killed, Evans was placing a tarpaulin over a drag line which he operated.

"All of the courts agree that injury due to windstorm, as well as lightning, earthquake, freezing, etc. arises out of the employment if the employment increases the risk of this kind of harm," Justice Ethridge wrote.

8961

Negro delivery boy sentenced to life in Forest assault

FOREST, Miss., Oct. 13—Robert Lewis, 19-year-old Negro delivery boy, has been sentenced to life imprisonment for raping a white woman.

A Scott County jury took only two hours and 55 minutes to return a guilty verdict. The jury could not agree on the punishment and that made a life sentence mandatory.

Lewis was sentenced by Circuit Judge W. F. McIntyre to serve life in the state penitentiary at Parchman.

The state asked for the death penalty.

A confession made by Lewis was introduced by the state.

The woman testified Lewis raped her as her four children slept in a nearby room. The woman, the state's first witness, said the delivery boy raped her "more than once." She identified Lewis as her assailant.

Judge McIntyre barred the public from the trial. Relatives and reporters were allowed to attend.

The youth's mother, Mrs. Katie Lewis, testified that her son was absent about two hours the night the offense occurred. She said her son had been drinking.

The trial began Monday.

Balles, Nov. 10. Only $12 of the damage costs have been paid.

IN AUGUST, four Negro youths were found delinquent after a break-in at Tuggle School. Some 17 rooms were entered, and a "cheesecake" of foodstuffs covered the kitchen and lunchroom floor.

In the light of the Curry case, Judge Ellis has detained those four boys in the Juvenile Court detention home while their appeal from his sentence that they be committed to the state training school is pending.

In the past month, subsequent cases of vandalism have been reported at Gibson, East Lake, Graymont, Shields, Ensley High, Bush and Jones Valley High schools, in addition to the two break-ins at Minor.

THE BIRMINGHAM Teachers Assn. Bulletin, in an editorial two weeks ago, urged the employment of a full-time special investigator for the city school system.

Det. Rhodes said today that the school vandalism has reached a point where "it is just about more than we have men to cope with." Juvenile work, at present, is handled in the Police Department by Sgt. Rhodes, with assistance from Det. E. L. Quinn, assigned to missing persons, and Det. H. L. Hooper, whose principal job is to trace down stolen bicycles and motorbikes.

NEGRO'S CONFESSION PRESENTED IN FOREST

Robert Lewis Admits He Is 'Right Guy' In Assault

LAST ARGUMENTS TODAY

By The United Press

FOREST, Miss., Oct. 11.—Circuit Judge W. F. McIntyre Tuesday permitted the introduction of a confession in which Negro Robert Lewis admitted chiminally assaulting a young white woman in her apartment while her four children slept in a nearby room.

Judge McIntyre ruled the statement as admissible after first ordering the 12-member all-white jury from the closed courtroom to hear the testimony of county, city and highway patrol officers who told of questioning Lewis shortly after the attack Nov. 26.

No Threat

Lewis, the officers said, admitted he was the "right guy." Judge McIntyre then ruled the jury could hear the confession which he said was not obtained through any threat of coercion or intimidation.

Prosecution and defense attorneys rested their cases late Tuesday and Judge McIntyre, who ordered the courtroom doors closed to the public Monday to prevent "friction between the white and Negro races," set final arguments for Wednesday.

Reporters and relatives of the trial principals were permitted to attend.

Mother Testifies

Only one witness was called in behalf of the 19-year-old Lewis. His mother, Katie May Lewis, said her son left their home on the night of Nov. 26 and was gone nearly two hours. He had been drinking, she testified, but was not intoxicated.

The white woman took the stand to point out Lewis as her attacker. She said he assaulted her "more than once" after she had placed her four children in another room. She testified she recognized Lewis as a grocery delivery boy who had visited her apartment in the past.

Judge McIntyre dismissed a defense request for a mistrial after a highway patrol inspector, Gwin Cole of Jackson, admitted during cross examination he had overheard the testimony of another officer before he took the stand to tell of obtaining Lewis' confession.

LIFE TERM FOR LANG IN LAUREL ASSAULT

Sentence Mandatory After Jury Fails To Set Penalty

LAUREL, Miss., Oct. 9.—(UP)—Theldor Lang was given the mandatory sentence of life imprisonment Saturday after an all-white jury found him guilty of raping a young white woman but disagreed on the punishment.

Lang, a 30-year-old Laurel Negro, took a deep breath and sighed loudly as Circuit Judge Lunsford Casey asked if he had anything to say. Lang shook his head.

The jury deliberated one hour and 55 minutes before reaching a verdict on the third ballot. Lang was charged with raping the 21-year-old woman in her home during an August night in 1954.

The woman, who testified, pointed out Lang as the man who threatened her small daughter with death if the mother did not submit. She told the court she was raped.

The life sentence is mandatory if a jury cannot decide on punishment after agreement on a guilty verdict in a capital case.

Death Penalty In Rape Case Upheld By United States Supreme Court

Washington, D. C., Oct. 12 — (Special) — The Supreme Court Monday upheld the death penalty of M[illegible] Robinson, Negro, who was convicted for rape of a white woman on a plantation near Belzoni July 10, 1954.

This means that a date can now be set for his execution.

His victim was Mrs. William W. Walker, Jr., wife of a Hammond, La., doctor and mother of two, who lost her way while returning home from Clarksdale, Miss., by automobile.

In his appeal to the Supreme Court, Robinson claimed insanity and that he had an unfair and hasty trial without proper counsel.

Negro Youth Gets Life Term In Rape Case

FOREST, Miss., Oct. 12 (AP)—A 19-year-old Negro delivery boy, Robert Lewis, received a life sentence today for raping a white woman.

A Scott county jury took two hours and 55 minutes, including time for lunch, to return a guilty verdict. The jury could not agree on the punishment. That made a life sentence mandatory.

Circuit Judge W. E. McIntyre quickly sentenced Lewis to serve life in the state penitentiary at Parchman.

The state asked for the death penalty.

A confession made by Lewis was introduced by the state.

Lewis raped the woman as her four children slept in a nearby room. The woman, the state's first witness said the delivery boy raped her "more than once." She identified Lewis as her assailant.

Judge McIntyre barred the public from the trial. Relatives and reporters were allowed to attend.

The youth's mother, Mrs. Katie Lewis, testified that her son was absent about two hours the night the offense occured. She said her son had been drinking.

The trial began Monday with selection of a jury from a special jury panel of 75 men.

NEGRO GETS LIFE TERM IN ATTACK ON WOMAN

Scott County Jury Failed To Agree On Penalty

FOREST, Miss., Oct. 12.—(AP)—Robert Lewis, 19-year-old Negro delivery boy, received a life sentence Wednesday for raping a white woman.

A Scott County jury found Lewis guilty of raping the mother of four children, but could not agree on the punishment. That made a life sentence mandatory and Circuit Judge W. E. McIntyre passed sentenced. Dist. Atty. Roy Noble Lee had asked the death penalty.

The verdict came two hours and 55 minutes after the jury received the case. The jury spent about an hour at lunch.

The white woman, first witness for the state, identified Lewis as the man who raped her "more than once."

She said he had delivered groceries to her apartment previously.

The trial began Monday with selection of a jury from a special panel of 75 men.

Mississippi style

PARCHMAN, Miss. — (ANP) — The harsh differences between standards of justice for white and colored were revealed in Mississippi last week.

On the same day that Bennett L. Austin, white, began a two-year sentence for criminal assaulting a 13-year-old colored girl, Walter Johnson, 18-year-old colored airman, died in the state's gas chamber for criminal assaulting a white woman.

EXECUTION DATE RESET BY COURT

Times-Picayune
Tues. 11-8-55

Convicted Rapist Slated to Die Dec. 16

P. 18

(The Times-Picayune Capital Bureau)

JACKSON, Miss., Nov. 7—The state supreme court Monday reset the execution of Mose Robinson, convicted and sentenced to death for rape, for Dec. 16.

Robinson, a Negro, had been convicted in Humphreys' county. His case was appealed to the United States supreme court but that court three weeks ago refused to review the case.

New Orleans, La.

The supreme court handed down the following decisions:

By Justice Gillespie

Amy Burkett vs. Peoples Bank of Biloxi, Jackson Chancery, affirmed.

Ance H. King vs. J. B. Ainsworth, Smith Circuit, affirmed on direct and cross-appeals.

By Justice Ethridge

E. L. Bruce Co. and American Employers Insurance Co. vs. Thirsty Hampton, et al, Kemper circuit, reversed and judgment rendered for appellants.

Cecil Dueitt, Curtis Highsmith and Buck Alford vs. State, George Circuit, affirmed.

E. L. Bruce Co. and American Employers Insurance Co. vs. Thirsty Hampton, et al, motion for allowance of attorney's fees overruled.

Mississippi ex rel, Julian P. Alexander Jr., district attorney vs. Mrs. H. G. Hutto, motion to advance cause on docket sustained.

By Justice Arrington

Jim Nix cafeteria and General Accident Fire and Life Insurance Co. vs. Mrs. Inez Burton, motion to docket and dismiss sustained.

By Justice Holmes

Cumbest Manufacturing Co. and Central Surety and Insurance Co. vs. Joe Pinkney, Jackson circuit affirmed on direct appeal, reversed on cross-appeal and remanded.

Cassie D. Tillman vs. State, Lauderdale circuit, affirmed.

By Justice Lee

Mrs. Mary Catherine Upchurch Lewis vs. J. W. Shorter, Simpson Chancery, affirmed.

Mrs. Lillie Bell Witcher vs. Mrs. Martha Frances Caldwell, executrix of the estate of William Stanley Caldwell, Monroe Chancery, affirmed.

By Justice Hall

Pearl River Tung Co., et al, vs. Mrs. John Reyer, Pearl River Circuit, affirmed.

Ellis J. Farris vs. S. V. Myrick, Warren Circuit, affirmed.

Orville Clark vs. State, Jackson Circuit, affirmed.

H. H. Pepper, et al, vs. Mrs. Lizzie Barrett, Pearl River Circuit, suggestion of error overruled.

By Justice Robards

In re estate of Lula Sims, Miss Oma Sims and Mrs. Pattie Sims Fly vs. Wilborn Sims Frith, et al and Roy Ellzey, administrator, Pike Chancery, affirmed in part, reversed in part and remanded.

Pearl River Tung Co. and New Amsterdam Casualty Co. vs. Estate of Leslie John, Pearl River Circuit, affirmed.

COURT REVERSES RAPE CONVICTION

Times-Picayune

Retrial Set in Attack on Own Daughter

Tues. 11-15-55

JACKSON, Miss., Nov. 14 (AP)—The State Supreme Court Monday reversed the conviction and life sentence given Alex Fairley for raping his own daughter.

38

The court returned the case to Covington County for another trial.

There were several instances of evidence wrongfully admitted during the trial, the court said in reversing the verdict.

New Orleans

Fairley's daughter, Emma Lee Fairley, was 14 years old at the time the alleged rape occurred. She had a six-month-old child and said the baby's father was her own father.

The girl testified that she first had sexual intercourse with her father in 1952, when she was 12, and periodically since then.

The girl said she submitted because of fear of her life.

The father denied having relations with his daughter.

The court handed down the following decisions:

By Justice Gillespie

J. H. Marter, Admr. Estate of Cecil Marter, deceased vs. Cathey-Williford-Jones Lumber Co. & Coal Operators Casualty Co.; suggestion of error overruled.

By Justice Arrington

Lawrence H. Hennessey vs. W. A. Wilson and Mrs. Rosena Wilson; Circuit, Warren; affirmed.

Alex Fairley vs. State; Circuit, Covington; reversed and remanded.

In re: Estate of Rosie Robinson Williams, Lucille Robinson, individually and as next friend of Rosie Lee Robinson, et al, minors, vs. Tom Williams; suggestion of error overruled.

By Justice Kyle

Motors Securities Co., Inc., vs. B. M. Stevens Co.; Circuit, Perry; affirmed.

Guy G. Snipes, et al, vs. Commercial & Industrial Bank, et al,; Chancery, Hinds; affirmed on direct and cross appeal.

NEW TRIAL ORDERED ON RAPE CONVICTION

Appeal

High Court Reverses Action Of Covington Circuit

Tues. 11-15-55

From The Commercial Appeal Jackson, Miss., Bureau

JACKSON, Miss., Nov. 14.—A life sentence given a Covington County man for criminal assault of a 14-year-old girl was reversed Monday by the Mississippi Supreme Court because of trial court errors in permitting introduction of incompetent testimony.

Justice Olney Arrington wrote the opinion reversing the sentence of Alex Fairley and remanding the case for reconsideration.

Memphis

Fairley denied the accusations, first reported to law enforcement officers by a doctor who examined the girl.

Jenn.

The court said it was in error to permit the doctor to testify relative to a statement of the man's wife that the girl reported the incident to her.

P. 1

"A wife is an incompetent witness against her husband, and if she could not testify over the objection of her husband as to the report of the rape made to her by the (girl), then it was error to permit the doctor to do so as this would be proving indirectly what could not be proved directly," Justice Arrington said.

Other errors cited by the court included testimony of a deputy sheriff that the girl told him Fairley raped her, and examination by the district attorney of Fairley as to whether his wife would be a witness for him.

Decisions handed down Monday follow:

By Justice Robert G. Gillespie:

J. H. Marter, admr. estate of Cecil Marter, deceased; vs. Cathey-Williford-Jones Lumber Co. and Coal Operators Casualty Co., suggestion of error overruled.

By Justice Olney Arrington:

Lawrence H. Hennessey vs. W. A. Wilson and Mrs. Rosena Wilson, Warren Circuit, affirmed.

In re estate of Rosie Robinson Williams, Lucille Robinson, individually and as next friend of Rosie Lee Robinson, et al, minors, vs. Tom Williams, suggestion of error overruled.

By Justice John Kyle:

Motors Securities Co., Inc. vs. B. M. Stevens Co., Perry Circuit, affirmed.

By Justice Percy Lee:

Guy G. Snipes, et al, vs. Commercial and Industrial Bank, et al, Hinds Chancery, affirmed on direct and cross appeal.

New Trial Ordered For Man Accused In Assault Case

Post-Herald
Tues. 11-15-55

JACKSON, Nov. 15 (U.P.)—The State Supreme Court today ordered a new trial for a man sentenced to life imprisonment for criminally assaulting his 14-year-old daughter because the lower court, among other things, permitted a physician to testify as to what the defendant's wife told him.

Birmingham, Ala.

"A wife is an incompetent witness against her husband," Justice Olney Arrington wrote. "If she could not testify over the objection of her husband . . . then it was in error to permit the doctor to do so."

Alex Fairley was convicted in Convington County Circuit Court for forcibly ravishing his daughter Oct. 1, 1954. The girl testified her father beat her before committing the act. She told her mother, who called the physician who reported the incident to authorities.

Fairley denied the charge but admitted he whipped the girl "for refusing to tell him who the Negro man was that he saw leaving out of the lot on the day of the alleged attack," the court said.

MISSISSIPPI NEGRO TO DIE FOR ASSAULT

Appeal

Tribunal Sets Execution Jan. 3—Widow's Claim Upheld

Tues. 11-29-55

P. 22

STEPCHILD TO BENEFIT

From The Commercial Appeal Jackson, Miss., Bureau

JACKSON, Miss., Nov. 28.—The execution of Robert Buchanan, Negro who confessed raping a 30-year-old white woman in Jackson in April 1954, Monday was set for Jan. 3 by the Mississippi Supreme Court.

Chief JusticeHarvey McGehee, who wrote the opinion, said errors asserted by counsel for the Negro were not "well taken." The record disclosed that Buchanan voluntarily confessed the crime in the presence of Negro business and religious leaders and officers.

Memphis

Was Visiting Mother

Thewoman, from Louisiana, was visiting her mother here at the time of the crime. She is the mother of three children.

In another case handled by Justice W. N. Ethridge Jr., the court upheld the claim of E. C. Evans' wife for workmen's compensation benefits resulting from her husband's death during the December, 1953 tornado at Vicksburg. Mr. Evans was killed when he sought to put a tarpaulin over a dragline he operated for Pigford Brothers Construction Co., which was building a flood wall at Vicksburg.

Justice Ethridge said Mr. Evans' death arose out of his employment in that the courts "agree that injury, due to windstorm, as well as to lightning, earthquake, freezing, sunstroke and exposure to contagious diseases, arises if the employment increases the risk of this kind of harm."

Stepchild To Benefit

The court included a stepchild as a beneficiary with the wife and three other children.

Other decisions handed down Monday follow—

By Justice Robert Gillespie:

Estate of Leslie John, deceased, vs. Pearl River Tung Co. and New Amsterdam Casualty Co., motion for allowance of attorney's fee sustained and fee of 33 1-3 per cent allowed.

By Justice W. N. Ethridge Jr.:

Vardaman Smith vs. Simpson Circuit, affirmed.

Mrs. John Reyer vs. Pearl River Tung Co. and New Amsterdam Casualty Co., motion of attorney for approval of attorney's fee sustained in part, overruled in part, and attorney's fee of 33 1-3 per cent allowed.

By Justice Olney Arrington:

H. H. Pepper and Western Casualty and Surety Co. vs. Mrs. Ed Barrett, motion for allowance of attorney's fee sustained.

By Justice John Kyle:

State vs. Mattie Cobran et al, motion of appellant to dismiss appeal sustained.

John E. Alexis vs. Wesley Robinson and John Santos Carinhas, Jackson Circuit, affirmed.

By Chief Justice Harvey McGehee:

Mrs. Modena Thrasher and Mrs. R. C. Baggett vs. E. F. Ragan, et ux, Alcorn Chancery, reversed and judgment here for appellants.

C. B. Santos vs. Lenora Santos, Jackson Chancery, reversed and judgment here for apellants.

State vs. Jimmy Lee Wright, alias James Henry Williams, motion to dismiss appeal b ythe state sustained.

W. N. Hayward vs. Grenada County, Illinois Central Railroad Co. et al, motion to docket and dismiss appeal sustained.

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MISSISSIPPI

8962

NEGRO IS SENTENCED FOR SEX ASSAULTS

Clarksdale Boy Ordered To Industrial School

Special to The Commercial Appeal

CLARKSDALE, Miss., Jan. 25.—A 13-year-old Negro, charged with attempted assault on three white women last summer, was ordered sent to the Mississippi Industrial School for Negroes at Oakley by the Circuit Court Monday. The teenager was arrested last July after a series of attempted assaults reported to officers by white women.

Abe Sherman, attorney for the Negro, had filed a motion asking that the charges be transferred to youth court; however, the Circuit Court elected to proceed against the youth.

In accordance with the attorney's contention, the court ordered the boy sent to the industrial school until he is 20.

New Trial Sought For Soldier Dressed as Woman

EDITOR'S NOTE—The conviction and death sentence of Walter Johnson, 17, former Chicago airman assigned to Keesler Air Base, Mississippi, for rape, is by no means an ordinary case. The Courier has gone behind the scenes to give readers a true picture of Mississippi's "majestic" justice. Johnson was scheduled to die in the gas chamber March 3, but his court-appointed attorney has filed an appeal with the United States Supreme Court.

By JOHN E. ROUSSEAU

(Second in a Series)

GULFPORT, Miss.—Last week the Courier gave facts of the arrest, conviction and death sentence of Walter Johnson, 17, of 6621 Drexel Street, Chicago, a former airman assigned to Keesler Air Base, Biloxi, Miss. Johnson was convicted of the March 30, 1954, aggravated rape on a 20-year-old white woman.

Testimony at the trial, June 30, 1954, was to the effect that the alleged victim and her 15-year-old sister were approached by Johnson, who was clad in women's attire, and who made an indecent proposal to them, drew a switch-blade knife, forced them to accompany him to a vacant lot, bound both, and finally committed oral perversion and rape upon the alleged victim.

* * *

DURING THE entire series of sexual experiences the young airman is alleged to have held both females at knife point, according to their testimony before an all-white jury.

A study of the entire case, however, makes it appear extremely doubtful that the alleged victim or her sister made any attempt to escape, but submitted almost willingly to the sexual experiments 'til it became apparent that it was a Negro man and not a Negro woman with whom they were consorting; even then, the protest was mild.

Before going into actual testimony of the case, it is pointed out that laws in the South provide that several elementary requirements are necessary to constitute aggravated rape. There must be sexual intercourse without the lawful consent of the female, committed where the female resists the act to the utmost, but her resistance is overcome by force; or where she is prevented from resisting the act by threats of great and immediate bodily harm, accompanied by apparent power of execution.

* * *

IN SHORT, it is essential that the female must have put up a genuine and bona fide resistance.

Partial testimony of the alleged victim during Johnson's trial follows:

"It was on March 30, 1954, on Lamuese Street, a Tuesday night. My sister, ———, 15, and my girl friend, ———, went to a show, the Saenger Theatre. After the show we walked down to the skating rink with (girl friend), then we came on back to the bus stop—the main bus stop and she asked us about walking home, (girl friend) did.

"We caught the 10:15 bus and got off at the corner of Reynoir and Division, and we got some custard and walked her home . . . So then about two houses from her house is where Walter met us. He crossed out of one yard into another yard."

At this point, the prosecution asked: "By Walter, do you mean the defendant, Walter Johnson?"

ANSWER: "Yes, I seen him coming out of one yard into another and as we got close to those little weeds that are in front of this house where he crossed out of one yard into this other yard and then he came out of these weeds growing there—they have weeds growing there and he said, 'Lady, . . .'"

QUESTION: "Now, just at that point, how was he dressed when you first saw him?"

A.: "In women's clothes. He had a checked blouse and a gray skirt; he had on white socks and he had a light pink or white kerchief on his head.

"He stopped us the first time and he said, 'Ladies, I want to ask you all something,' and just at that time there was a truck passing, he said, 'I'm too ashamed; it's too embarrassing.' So we said, 'Okay,' and we went on walking.

"And we walked off just as if nothing had happened. We didn't think nothing of it, so a couple of houses down he met us again and he came up—my sister and I were walking together side by side and he came up between use and he stuck this knife in between us. It was one of these slip blade knives. He put the knife to my throat and he told my sister, ———, 'If you holler, 'I'll split her throat open.'

"He put the knife to my sister's throat and he said, 'If you holler, I'll split her throat.' We don't—we never said anything—we just asked him if he wanted jewelry or what he wanted. He said, 'No, nothing like that'."

The prosecutor asked, at this point, "Did he keep the knife on your throat at that time?"

The alleged victim answered: "He kept the knife right on us all the time."

Describing the alleged attack, she continued:

"So then he made us walk through this yard on Lamuese Street—it used to a grocery store, but I think it is an apartment now and he walked us through the yard and I kind of coughed, you know, to make people hear me and he told me to put this handkerchief over my mouth, so I did. So when he brought us back by the shed and he took my sister first.

"So he told my sister to take off her blouse. She said, 'What for?' and she took it off, so then when she took it off, he took and pulled the straps of her bra down and struck her and touched (censored) . . . and said she would not do. So he turned to me and started to make me strip.

. . . "So he struck her breast and he turned around to me and he was going to make me strip and he made me take off my garter belt. He asked me 'How do you take this off; pull it off or just rip it off?' and I said, 'You just wait a minute and I'll take it off . . . the knife was still at my sister's throat.

"Yes, he said he would kill me if I wouldn't—if she would not do as he said. So then he made me sit, so that is when he touched the top part of my body."

QUESTION: "All right. Now, did he make you take your clothes off?"

ANSWER: "That's right. He had the knife at my throat and he made me take my clothes off. So then, the whole time he was (censored) he had the knife right there and if my sister moved, he would cut my insides out, he said.

"Well, he touched the top part of my body and he made me strip the lower part of my body and he me go to—kneeling on the ground and he had the knife right there . . .

"He was on his knees. He made me undress before he got on the ground though.

"And then after that he told me to lay down on the ground and I said 'No.' So then when he started pulling up the skirt he had on, I still didn't know it was a man, and I said, 'Oh, no, ma'am, I can't do you that'."

QUESTION: "Did you know that he was a man up until that time?"

ANSWER: "I didn't know that he was a man until after he laid me down on the ground and raped me."

The alleged victim's sister testified in part:

"He said not to say anything or he would kill us and so we crossed the street and after we crossed the street, he took us behind a shed and I think he told me first to take off my skirt, so I did and I took off my slip too, and he said, 'No, that I wouldn't do and he went over to ——— and talked to her and everything.

"Then he came back to me again and I had put my skirt back on in the meantime and he asked me to take off my blouse, so I took off and then he went back over to ——— and raped her."

The prosecutor asked, "What did he—what did he—where were you at the time that he raped your sister?"

ANSWER: "Kneeling right by the side of her."

QUESTION: "Before he raped her, did he cause her to walk up and stand over him?"

ANSWER: "Yes, sir."

Further, both testified they went home, telephoned police, then returned to the scene of the alleged assault.

This is the principal evidence on which Walter Johnson's conviction and death sentence is based. Whether or not the "victim" resisted as required by law is indicated in the testimony.

Courier Interested Parties Rally to Save Airman's Life

EDITOR'S NOTE: The conviction and death sentence of Walter Johnson, 17, Chicago airman, for rape of a Biloxi (Miss.) white woman, on its surface, appears to be a routine case. However, The Courier has gone behind the scenes to give readers a true picture of Mississippi's "majestic" justice. Johnson was scheduled to die in the gas chamber March 3, but his court-appointed attorney has filed an appeal with the U. S. Supreme Court.

(First of a Series)

By JOHN E. ROUSSEAU

GULFPORT, Miss. — Is it humanly possible for a slightly built, female-attired, 17-year-old boy to approach and proposition two young women, hold them both helpless and in mortal terror at knifepoint for nearly an hour in a serious of sexual experiments, which included the rape of one — a few feet from a public street?

These were the facts presented to an all-white Harrison County grand jury June 16, 1954, which returned a rape indictment against Walter Johnson, 17, of 6621 Drexel Street, Chicago, Ill., then an airman assigned to the Keesler Air Base, Biloxi, Miss. These were the facts which led to his conviction by an all-white trial jury June 30, and subsequent sentence to death.

Johnson was charged with the March 30, 1954, aggravated rape on a 20-year-old white woman in Biloxi, Miss. The youth was without funds to employ legal defense so Circuit Judge Leslie Grant on June 16 appointed Atty. R. D. Wigginton, Gulfport, Miss., as his counsel.

Following the June 30 conviction for aggravated rape, Judge Grant condemned the young airman to be put to death Aug. 24. However, an unidentified white resident of Biloxi had learned details of the case and became convinced that the youth was either innocent or insane, and provided funds to have Johnson examined by a psychiatrist.

Despite this lack of funds, two other Gulfport attorneys, Jo Drake Arrington and English Lindsey, are voluntarily assisting Defense Counsel Wiggin-

An appeal to the Mississippi Supreme Court for a new trial was denied in January, and the execution was re-set for March 3. Since the case began, the mode of legal execution in Mississippi was changed from the electric chair to the gas chamber.

Johnson's counsel appealed to the United States Supreme Court on [illegible] and Mississippi Chief Justice Harvey McGehee automatically granted a stay of execution.

• • •

RECORDS and testimony in the case charge that Johnson was dressed in female attire March 30, 1954, and accosted a 20-year-old married white woman and her 15-year-old sister as they were returnig from a theatre in Biloxi about 10:30 o'clock at night. During the trial the woman and her sister both testified that Johnson drew a knife on them and marched them to the back yard of a residence.

Both testified further that Johnson forced them to undress, fondled them both, committed oral perversion on the married woman, and that it was only when he "raped" the married woman later that man and not a woman with whom they were dealing. Following the incident, they went home then notified police, both testified.

After an alarm had been sent out, Johnson was arrested that night by Sgt. William M. Hill of the 3890th Air Police Squadron at the main gate of Keesler Air Base. Hill testified that at the time of the arrest Johnson was clad in a yellow, polka-dotted sport shirt, gray trousers, brown shoes and white socks. He added that when Johnson was forced to disrobe, he was found to be wearing a woman's pair of green step-ins. Hill held Johnson for Biloxi city police.

THE APPEAL to the Mississippi Supreme Court and one filed with the United States Supreme Court last week were based on nine bills of exception reserved during Johnson's trial:

1. **The defendant is a Negro. There were no Negroes summoned to serve on the panel from which the grand jury that indicted him was drawn.**

2. **There were no Negroes on the panel from which the trial jury was drawn.**

3. **The court erred in admitting two alleged confessions obtained from Johnson by a large number of police officers about ten minutes after his arrest.**

4. **The court erred and prejudiced the jury by excusing Preston Scarborough, a white juror who had been qualified, but who declared he would inflict capital punishment only if facts justified such.**

5. **The verdict was against the overwhelming weight of the evidence.**

6. **The verdict, and particularly the punishment fixed, was the result of bias, passion and prejudice on the part of the all-white jury against the Negro defendant.**

7. **The court erred in granting the instructions for the state.**

8. **Newly discovered evidence is that the defendant was not wholly sane at the time of the said offense and at the time of trial.**

9. **In all the annals of criminal jurisprudence in Mississippi, no white person has ever been subjected to the death penalty for the crime of rape.**

Heading a citizens committee for Johnson's defense, the Rev. Robert H. Tucker, pastor of St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church, Biloxi, Miss., brought the matter to the attention of The Courier and the NAACP and is seeking funds to defray expenses connected with taking the case to the United States Supreme Court.

The condemned youth's mother, Mrs. Ann Lindsey, resides at 660 E. 101st Street, Cleveland, Ohio.

NAACP Moves To Save Boy Convicted In Mississippi

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ANP)—NAACP Lawyers filed a petition with the Supreme Court last week in an effort to save the life of a 17-year-old boy convicted of raping a white woman while dressed in feminine garb.

It is charged that Walter Johnson, an airman stationed at the U. S. Air Force base at Keesler Field, Miss., was denied his constitutional right to a fiar and unprejudiced trial.

Johnson was arrested last March 30 after a complaint was filed by a 20-year-old white resident and her 15 year-old sister.

The pair asserted they had been accosted on a main street of Biloxi by a Negro man dressed in women's clothing who compelled them to entera vacant shed off the street at knifepoint. The older girl said the man had sexual relations with her.

Shortly after the attack, an alarm was sent out and Johnson was stopped on his way back to the base. He was carrying a bundle of women's clothing and upon close examination was discovered wearing women's underwear.

At the U. S. Veterans hospital in Gulford, Miss., the boy was found to be mentally ill and "not conscious of right or wrong."

Nevertheless, young Johnson was convicted and given the death sentence.

Lawyers for the NAACP want a new trial for the airman on the grounds that he was convicted by a jury from which members of his race were systematically excluded.

"It has been the clear and consistent rule of the court that a conviction of a Negro upon an indictment handed down by a grand jury from which Negroes are systematically excluded violates the 14th amendment to the Constitution of the United States the lawyers stated.

Two white residents of Mississippi have paid the costs of mental examination and testimony for Johnson because as they say, the youth is "mentally sick and morally and legally irresponsible." They added, "No white man has ever suffered death for rape in Mississippi.

NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund attorneys Thurgood Marshall and Jack Greenberg were asked to intervene after the Mississippi Supreme Court denied a motion for a new trial."

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NORTH CAROLINA

8963

Missing From Monroe

Carolina Priest Sought As Girl Charges Rape

MONROE, N. C. — A search from Monroe to New York City is on for a local Catholic priest being sought on charges of attempting to rape a young colored girl, and with forcible trespassing. A second priest is under $1,000 bond on a charge of being an accessory after the fact.

Details of the attack were not known by local police because a telephone call by the Journal and Guide to W. T. Ivey, chief of police, revealed that the young girl's parents had taken out two warrants for the arrest of Father Patrick Lynch, charged with the crime.

CHIEF IVEY SAID the priest is believed to be in New York, although it is not verified.

In Monroe under $1,000 bond is Father Julian F. Burt, a priest at the church located in the colored section of the city, where Father Lynch is [illegible].

The warrants for the arrest of Father Lynch are being held by police, Chief Ivey said, because they have been unable to find him in the town since the warrants were issued.

Man Held On Assault Charge

WHITEVILLE, N. C. —(ANP)— Ernest Todd white attendant at a local service station, is being held in Columbus county jail on a charge of criminally attacking a 19-year-old Negro girl.

Sheriff J. R. Pridgen, who arrested Todd over the weekend, said the incident occurred near here on the Chadbourn-Whiteville highway.

The victim told deputies that she was walking to church when a man, later identified as Todd, drove up, turned around and asked her if she wanted a ride.

The girl said that when she refused, the man jumped out and attacked her. She said he fled when she began screaming and struggling, tearing a pocket off his shirt.

Todd, who admitted he was in the area at the time of the attack, said he was looking for a Negro woman to take care of his wife, who is an expectant mother.

Todd's bond was set at $2,500.

Fla. Parole Board Ordered To Check Irvin Case Evidence

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. —(INS)— Governor Leroy Collins ordered the Pardon and Parole Board Thursday to check out a story that all evidence had not been obtained in the notorious Groveland rape case. Walter Lee Irvin, a Negro is under death sentence for the [illegible]

A. Irvin, advertising director of a Tampa Negro newspaper, told the Pardon and Parole Board yesterday that the convicted man had told him that a physician who examined the alleged victim found no evidence of rape, but was not called upon to testify.

The advertising director, who says he is no relation to the convicted man, said he was convinced of Irvin's innocence and volunteered to foot the expenses of finding the doctor, now practicing in another part of the country.

Gov. Collins said he was "profoundly impressed" by the story.

Man Sentenced In Assault

WILSON, Aug. 31—Ben Rouse Jr., 35-year-old Kinston Negro, was sentenced to two years road work in Wilson County Superior Court by Judge Walter J. Bone.

Sentence was passed on Rouse after an all-white, all-male jury found him guilty of the misdemeanor charge of assaulting a female over the age of 18.

Originally he was charged with a felony, assault on a female with intent to commit rape. Prosecuting witness in the case was Ailene Jones, patient in the Eastern North Carolina TB sanitorium.

She told Judge Bone and the jury that she was in a room adjoining hers early the night of June 14 when the man approached her from behind and put his arms around her.

Judge Bone charged the jury they could return one of three verdicts, guilty of the felony, guilty of the misdemeanor, or innocent.

After an hour's deliberation, a verdict of guilty of the misdemeanor was brought back from the jury room.

Grand Jury Frees Man of Rape Charge

WINDSOR, N. C. — (ANP) — A Bertie county grand jury recently returned a no-bill in the case of Carl K. Miller, white, who was charged with assault with intent to commit rape against a 14-year-old Negro girl.

The charge had been filed against Miller by Mrs. Queenie Ruffin of the Lewiston community on behalf of her daughter, a student at the John B. Bond school, Lewiston, N. C.

Probable cause had been found in the case by Magistrate Lacey M. Early in June and Miller had been free on $1,000 bond.

Two Negro members of the grand jury voted with the white members in declaring the no-bill. The Negro jurors were Lewis T. Bond and John B. Bond, principal of the Lewiston school.

Graham Man

Held on Rape Charge

BURLINGTON Nov. 3 — Police investigations yesterday led to the arrest of a Graham man on an attempted rape charge.

Herman Moricle 30, was being held in county jail today in lieu of $1,000 bond on the morals charge and $1,000 peace bond. He is accused of attempting to rape a 16-year-old girl.

City detectives said the girl stated Moricle came to the home to see her mother about storing some clothes. In the absence of the mother, he engaged in conversation with the girl and, according to her report, tried to kiss and fondle here.

The girl claimed he forced her into the bedroom but when he was distracted by small children in the next room, she jumped from the bed and fled to a neighbor's home.

Officers said Moricle admitted being at the girl's home but denied the other charges. He was drinking at the time of the arrest, police stated.

8964

Youth, 18, Cleared In Rape-Slaying

NEWPORT, R. I., May 23 (UP). —Charges against Clyde Brumfield, eighteen, of Rochester, N. Y., accused as an accessory in the rape-murder of a sixteen-year-old girl, were dropped today in Superior court.

Brumfield and his uncle, Fred Zimmer, twenty-five, also of Rochester, were arrested in the Dec. 19 death of Margaret Blanchette, of Portsmouth, R. I. Both were sailors on duty here.

Zimmer pleaded no contest to a charge of second degree murder and began serving a life sentence April 15.

8965

Youth facing chair in assault murder

TOLEDO, Ohio, Jan. 13—(AP)—Eighteen-year-old Bernard Schreiber, found guilty of the rape-slaying of Mary Jolene Friess, 17, today faces death in Ohio's electric chair.

A panel of three judges yesterday found him guilty of first degree murder in the woodland slaying near here last Aug. 12. The judges deliberated one hour and made no mercy recommendation. The trial began Monday.

Negro Rapist Resists Chair In Fierce Fight

Advertiser Sat. 12-3-55

COLUMBIA, S.C., Dec. 2 (AP)—A condemned Negro rapist fought fiercely for 20 minutes today before seven South Carolina penitentiary guard officers could strap him into the electric chair.

Penitentiary officials said it was the first time in their memory that anyone had resisted being confined to the chair.

The prisoner was Clay Daniels, 26, who weighed about 165 pounds. His younger brother, Willie, went to his death quietly a few minutes earlier. They were convicted of raping an 18-year-old white girl last August.

20 SPECTATORS

The frenzied struggle took place in the presence of about 20 spectators, including two women. Only a waist-high wooden railing down the center of the small death house separates visitors from the chair and the prison staff members stationed near it. The spectators showed little suprrise at the battle, apparently assuming that it was to be expected. But the guards were caught completely unawares.

When Clay finally became exhausted he was secured by straps around his arms, body and legs to the big wooden chair, which is bolted to the floor.

HAS DEEP BITE

One of the guards suffered a deep bite on his left wrist.

Dr. M. W. Chatham, penitentiary physician, said Clay's exertion so stimulated his heart that it took double the usual time for the electricity to kill him. Clay was given three charges covering nearly seven minutes. Ordinarily one or two shocks, over a period of about 3½ minutes, are fatal.

R. Fuller Goodman, captain of the penitentiary guard, remarked later that "I was so exhausted that for the first time in 18 years I failed to ask a condemned man if he had any final word."

Rapist Fights 7 Guards at Death Chair

Post + Times Herald Sat. 12-3-55

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Memphian Turned Down By Court In 3 to 2 Decision

(Special to Memphis World)

NASHVILLE—Youthful (21) John Arthur Hale of Memphis must die in the electric chair said the Tennessee Supreme Court, by a 3 to 2 vote, as it upheld the death sentence imposed upon Hale in March last year by Criminal Court Judge Perry Sellers for criminally assaulting an eight year old white girl.

RAPS MEMPHIS TRIAL

Chief Justice A. B. Neil, who along with Associate Justice Hamilton, dissented and in his dissenting opinion pointed to one of the facts brought out by Atty. Alexander Looby, one of Hale's attorneys, at the hearing before the state supreme court on Jan. 17 that during the Memphis trial the prosecuting attorneys possibly prejudiced the jurors toward asking for the death sentence.

Justice Neil said: "The trial judge permitted the states counsel (former attorney general John Heiskell and assistant attorney general Ed F. A. Smith), over the defendants' objections, to state to prospective jurors the substance of the proof relied on for a conviction, and ask each juror if he would agree to impose the death penalty."

ILLEGAL PROCEDURE

Justice Neil avowed: "In my opinion, this procedure was illegal and without precedent in the entire judicial history of Tennessee."

The constitutionality of the right of Robert S. Clement, father of Gov. Clement who was appointed by him to temporarily serve during the illness of Memphis Justice John E. Swepston and who voted to uphold the death sentence, to serve on the state supreme court is being questioned in some circles.

CONSTITUTIONAL LIMITATION

It has been pointed out that the appointment of the governor's father to the supreme court made three justices from Middle Tennessee while the state constitution limits the number of justices to two from any grand division of the state.

ATTACKER IS EXECUTED

Negro Dies For Assault On Nashville Housewife

NASHVILLE, Sept. 15. — (UP) —The state electrocuted Robert L. "Bombone" Crenshaw Thursday for the 1954 rape of an East Nashville housewife.

The 43-year-old Negro was the 121st person to die in Tennessee's electric chair since it was adopted in 1916. The State Supreme Court turned down his plea for life last month and Gov. Frank Clement refused to intervene.

Jury Indicts Six In Rape-Abduction

MEMPHIS, Oct. 1 (AP) — The Shelby County Grand Jury today indicted six Negro youths on two sets of charges growing out of the alleged rape of a 36-year-old white woman.

Four of the Negroes are in jail and a hunt is on for the other two.

They are charged with abducting the woman from her date on a lonely country road last Sept. 12. She told police five of the six raped her.

The other indictment charges the six with assualt to murder on the woman's date, Manuel Shaw, 36. Shaw said he was beaten with a brick and a bottle after his car was forced to a halt and his woman companion dragged from the front seat.

Police did not identify the woman.

6 NEGROES INDICTED IN CRIMINAL ASSAULT

Four Are Held, Two Sought For Mass Attack On White Woman

The abduction and criminal assault of a 36-year-old housewife resulted yesterday in the indictment of six young Negroes by the Shelby County Grand Jury.

Four of the sextet named in rape and assault to murder indictments are in custody. The other two have fled the county, investigators said.

Admit Being There

Held in the Shelby County Jail without bond are Robert Wright, 15, of 789 Nonconnah; Thurman Coleman, 16, of 1447 Horace; James Tidwell, 20, of 24 West Colorado, and Dennis Mabry, 20, of 748 Nonconnah.

Investigators said the four have admitted being in the group which jerked the blond-haired woman from the car of her boy friend on a lonely south Shelby County road during the early morning hours of Sept. 12.

The woman said she was criminally assaulted at least eight times before her abductors pushed her from their car.

Atty. Gen. Phil Canale said the case may reach the trial stage by November if the other two suspects are taken into custody.

Bond Is Not Likely

On the question of bond for the Negroes in jail, Mr. Canale said, "As far as I'm concerned, there will be no bond."

According to the statement of young Wright, here's what happened as the carload of Negroes were changing beer taverns:

Mabry saw a car parked on the side of the road and said to the others, "There's a white woman! Let's get her."

Manuel Shaw, 36, of 615 Adams, objected when the Negroes halted his car and Mabry struck him with his fist. Mr. Shaw, with his date still inside the car, drove away after Mabry hit him with a brick.

The Negroes caught the couple as they stopped at a house to ask directions. The white woman was dragged from the car and Tidwell told her boy friend:

"One of our boys whistled at a white woman in Mississippi and they killed him. You had better get going." (He had reefrence to the recent kidnap-slaying of Emmett Till, 14-year-old Chicagoan, at Money, Miss.)

Struck Her In Eye

Mabry struck the woman in the eye when she tried to escape while being held prisoner in the Negroes' car.

After Mr. Shaw reported his date's abduction to police, and described the Negroes' car, officers stopped a similar auto near Waldorf and Florida. The Negro occupants fled as the officers approached.

Lt. John Carlisle of the sheriff's office said Coleman was arrested when he asked about the car held by police. Upon questioning about the assault, he implicated his companions, investigators explained.

Maximum punishment if convicted of rape is the death penalty.

NEGRO'S RETURN SOUGHT

Hearing in Chicago Tuesday For Accused Attacker

A hearing on a Federal warrant to return one of six Negroes accused of raping a white Shelby County woman to Memphis will be heard in Chicago Tuesday before the United States Commissioner.

The warrant against Leotha Wilson, 21, charges unlawful flight across a state line to avoid prosecution on a charge of rape. Wilson was picked up by Federal Bureau of Investigation agents Wednesday night in Chicago. He fled Memphis after the criminal assault, according to Sheriff Edward Reeves. One of the Negroes is still at large. Four are in Shelby County Jail.

Wilson and the five other Negroes were indicted a week ago by the Shelby County Grand Jury on charges of assault to murder and rape. The assault to murder charge was based on a statement by the woman's companion that the Negroes struck him with their fists and again with a brick.

White Woman Blames 4 Negroes In Raping

MEMPHIS, Sept. 12 (AP)—County and city police joined in a hunt today for four Negroes accused of kidnaping and raping a 36-year-old white woman.

The woman, not identified by police, told the sheriff's office she was raped by the men early today after they had pulled her out of her escort's car and driven away with her in their own automobile.

The woman later turned up at a police station and told officers the Negroes had raped her on the back seat of their car and then threw her out and drove off.

ASSAULT CASE TRIAL IS SCHEDULED NOV. 14

Death Penalty To Be Asked For Five Negroes

The trial of five Negroes charged with the rape of a woman on a Shelby County Road last Sept. 12 has been set for Nov. 14, Atty. Gen. Phil Canale announced yesterday.

The death penalty will be asked of the jury, according to Mr. Canale. Asst. Atty. Gen. Braxton Gandy will assist in the prosecution.

The Negroes were brought before Criminal Judge Sam Campbell, who will hear the trial, yesterday morning. The judge asked each whether a lawyer or the public defender would represent him. Three of the Negroes said they expected to have an attorney.

One of the Negroes charged in the rape is still sought by the sheriff's deputies. Those to go to trial are; Robert Wright, 15, of 789 Nonconnah; Thurman Coleman, 16, of 1447 Horace; James Tidwell, 20, of 24 West Colorado; Dennis Mabry, 20, of 748 Nonconnah, and Leotha Wilson, 21, of near Tunica, Miss.

Woman in Rape Case Kills Self Rather Than Testify

27e(2)

ATHENS, Tex., Jan. 29 (UP).—Mrs. Lillie Mae Jones, thirty-three, who killed herself because she couldn't stand the shame of testifying against a man charged with raping her, was buried today.

Mrs. Jones shot herself Thursday at her home in Baxter community near Athens. She left three notes in which she said she couldn't go on living with the trial staring her in the face.

Her body, fully clothed, was found on a bed with the gun beside it when her husband returned to the house from a field where he had been working. Their three children, all under ten years old, were at school.

The alleged rape took place on Dec. 7 while Mrs. Jones husband, Mack, was working in the field. As soon as she located him, they reported the attack to County Attorney Jack Hardee.

She told Mr. Hardee that a man later identified as Henry Boles, thirty-five, who was also wanted in Texas City for abandoning his children, knocked on her door on Dec. 7. She said she thought it was a neighbor and told him to come in.

She said Boles grabbed her, threw her on the bed and raped her. Boles was arrested the same day and has been held in the county jail ever since.

In Palestine, Tex., District Attorney John McDonald said he didn't know yet whether it would still be able to prosecute Boles, with Mrs. Jones dead.

Texan Sentenced To Chair For Rape

DALLAS (AP)—A Criminal Court jury has convicted a Dallas paper mill worker of raping the wife of an oil firm executive and fixed his punishment at death in the electric chair.

It took the jury an hour and 42 minutes to find the former paratrooper, Billy Joe Houston, 26, guilty. Houston jumped to his feet when the verdict was read, but said nothing.

He had pleaded insanity.

Houston's mother, Mrs. H. Houston broke into tears when the verdict was read and his wife, an attractive 22-year-old brunette, sobbed, "I can't stand it. I can't stand it."

The 54-year-old housewife who was the victim of the attack last January was present yesterday during the final arguments, but left after the case went to the jury.

Texan Gets Sentence For Attack Of 14-Year-Old Girl

Wed. 11-9-55

GILMER, Tex.—(ANP)—Luther Abraham Wheeler, 35, this week was convicted of raping a 14-year-old Negro girl. The jury in the 115 District Court set his punishment at 20 years inprisoment.

The teenager was reportedly attacked on the afternoon of September 26 in a wood area off Highway 271, about a mile north of Gladewater. She testified that she accompained a white man who had came to her house looking for a girl to do some work at his house. Her mother granted permission, but took down the license number of the car the man was driving.

Wheeler was arrested by Longview officers the same evening after officers had traced the ownership of the car to a woman at whose home Wheeler was staying. The car's owner testified that Wheeler had been driving her car that afternoon.

County Atty. Ott Duncan, prosecutor in the case, produced circumstantical evidence as well as identifiation of the defendant by several witnesses who reside in Gladewater.

Wheeler had testified during the trial that he had been previously convicted in Georgia and had escaped from a prison farm at Milledgeville, Ga. last July 26.

Defense attor neys announced they would appeal the conviction or file a motion for a new trial.

Gets Life For Rape

BELTON, Texas—Life imprisonment was the sentence given a 21-year-old soldier convicted of raping the white wife of another soldier.

Pfc. Johnnie Akers, jr., of nearby Ft. Hood was convicted of raping a 24-year-old mother of a nine-month-old boy in her home Sept. 14.

White Texan Gets 20 Yrs. For Rape Of Girl 14

Gilmer, Texas (ANP).—Luther Abraham Wheeler, 35, this week was convicted of raping a 14-year-old Negro girl. The jury in the 115th District Court set his punishment at 20 years imprisonment. The teen-ager was reportedly attacked on the afternoon of September 26 in a wooded area off Highway 271, about a mile north of Gladewater.

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VIRGINIA

8969

COLORED PROSECUTOR SCORES:

2 Va. men get 3 years for abducting housewife

By BUDDY LONESOME

ACCOMAC, Va. — The two white brothers charged with seizing a 26-year-old colored mother for immoral purposes were sentenced to three years each in the state penitentiary in Richmond Tuesday.

Shortly after 4 p.m., an all-male, white jury filed into the Accomac Circuit Court after three and one half hours deliberation and told Judge Jeffrey Walters they had found Elbert, 28, and William Spry, 21, guilty of abduction.

The brothers could have been sentenced to death, life imprisonment or 20 years in prison. The three-year term is the minimum.

Broke Up Dispute

The Spry brothers were charged with abducting Mrs. Sarah Johnson on Tuesday, Nov. 1, after coming across the mate that night on a lonely road arguing with her husband.

It developed that the argument was the outgrowth of Mrs. Johnson's conviction that her husband, White, was running around with a teen age girl who worked with him at a local hospital.

The mother of three was hidden in the trunk of her husband's car and opened the lid after he had picked up the teen ager.

When Johnson stopped to investigate, he and the girl were confronted by his wife and a violent argument followed.

Brandish Shot Gun

The Spry brothers, accompanied by a third man still awaiting trial, happened along, and after brandishing a shot gun, forced Mrs. Johnson to accompany them, testimony set forth.

The trio allegedly drove to a deserted spot where one suspect, identified as Elbert Spry, moved the woman to a house trailer, where, it was testified, he attempted to have relations with her.

Faring this, the suspect allegedly performed certain indecent acts on the woman.

Selby was arrested about two weeks after a white woman told county police that she had been raped by "a big Negro" who had killed her navy companion on a lonely road in Princess Anne County on the night of June 6.

$3,000 Spent To Free Man In Attack Case

NORFOLK, Va. — (ANP) — It took $3,057.80 to have Ruffin Junior Selby from death on the charge of raping a white woman and killing her male companion last summer, it was disclosed here last week. White and Negro citizens gave $3,308.91 to the Selby Defense Fund, and only $251.11 was left after Selby won his freedom in court.

A report on the receipts and disbursements from the Selby Defense Fund was made last week by the Norfolk branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The report was signed by Jerry O. Gilliam, president; the Rev. E. C. Walton, secretary, and Thomas W. Stansoll, treasurer of the local branch.

Payments totaling $2,485 were made to the three lawyers who defended Selby and won his acquittal by a Princess Anne County jury of one colored and 11 white men.

Clerical help cost $146, and $47.65 was spent for stamps, stationery and printing. The report showed that $329.10 was applied to "memberships, in accordance with the desire of some contributors who indicated that they wanted to be members of the branch.

The three attorneys, J. Hugo Madison, Victor J. Ashe and James A. Overton filed a supplemental report accounting for the $2,485 that had been paid to them.

Actually, attorneys' fees amounted to $1,730.45, the lawyers reported. A private agency was paid $175, and Selby's bond cost $500. The court reporter was paid $59.05, and $15 was spent for the autopsy report and medical records. Another $5.50 was paid for an out-of-state court decree and rechr[illegible]

State Asked Death

Norfolk YWCA Rapists Get Life, 40-Year Terms

By ART SEARS JR.

"This case is too serious in nature to comment upon. The crime speaks for itself," said the judge.

Editor's Note:—Seven Negro men were sent to the death chair upon conviction by a Martinsville (Virginia) jury on a charge of raping a white woman. Despite pleas by many religious bodies and influential persons, white and colored, the then Governor, John S. Battle, refused to commute their sentences to life

"This is different from the usual rape case . . . all of decency cries out against these heinous crimes," spoke up the prosecuting attorney.

"I may sound like a Baptist preacher pleading for the life of this boy, but that's all I have to go on," confessed a defense lawyer.

THESE REMARKS describe the mood in which a brief court session on Wednesday ended the trial of the "YWCA rapists"—Charles James "Charlie Boy" Holmes, and Midgette R. "Dutch" Cowan.

Charlie Boy and Dutch were charged with breaking into the Phyllis Wheatley Branch YWCA on Park avenue on March 11; abducting a Hampton Institute economics graduate living there and taking her on a wild, night-long "rape ride."

• • •

STIFF PENALTIES were meted out to the pair by Judge J. Sidney Smith of Corporation Court Part Two. Holmes, for whom Assistant Commonwealth Attorney Reid Spencer recommended the death penalty, was sentenced to life plus 30 years.

The life term is for the rape conviction. And the 30 years were given Holmes as three 10 year sentences to run one after the other. One 10-year term is for robbery and two other terms of 10 years each are for statutory burglary and burglary.

Cowan, who confessed to his part in the crime and implicated Holmes, was sentenced a total of 40 years in prison including ten years each on two counts of burglary and one count of robbery. Holmes denied throughout the trial that he raped the Y resident, but he admitted that he had had sexual relations with her, on her consent.

THE VICTIM was on the witness stand for two hours in August, describing the terror-filled hours that faced her when she awoke on that night of last March 11 to find Holmes and Cowan standing over her in her third-floor room at the YW.

She told the hushed courtroom how the two men assaulted her in her room before forcing her—at knifepoint —to accompany them into adjoining Princess Anne county in her own car. There the attacks recurred at intervals through the night, the victim said.

• • •

COWAN SIGNED a statement two weeks after the abduction and rape in which he agreed with the victim's story and implicated Holmes. But Holmes stuck to his story denying the rape.

The pair appeared unconcerned as the sentences were pronounced. As they left the court building, handcuffed, Holmes glanced toward the open street. He gave an indication that he might run from the jailors, but was ordered back in line.

• • •

HOLMES TRIED desperately to keep a Guide photographer from taking his picture.

The case, which was "much talked about" in uptown Norfolk, is said to be one of the most heartless crimes in recent times, in the Tidewater area. And the sentences were among the stiffest given to an uptown criminal in a long time.

8971

27f 1955

Roosevelt Urges Support For Anti-Lynch Bills

Daily World
Atlanta Ga.

WASHINGTON—(ANP)— James Roosevelt (D., Calif.) stated last week that he wished to "join in the swelling roar of protest that is rising against the insensate brutalities that are presently going unpunished in the State of Mississippi. That such inhuman crimes can be committed in our country is revolting but that they can then be tacitly condoned is literally sickening."

In a letter to Atty. Thomas G. Neusom, president of the Los Angeles Branch of the NAACP, Roosevelt stated that protesting an accomplished fact is inadequate, especially if the fact occurred in a section of the country where the majority of American citizens have neither control nor influence.

The only answer, he continued, is a federal law requiring action when local officials are patently malfeasant.

He pointed out that bills have been introduced on this subject by several Congressmen including himself, and they had been promised hearings in the next session.

He, therefore, called upon the NAACP to urge its members to literally snow under their Representatives with letters urging the passage of this legislation.

If the proposed bills are not passed, then the constituents should mark for defeat every office holder who did not support them.

NAACP Head Demands Anti-Lynching Law

JOHNSTOWN, Pa. — (INS) — The executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has called upon the Republican and Democratic parties to demand enactment of a federal anti-lynching law.

The official, Roy Wilkins, made the demand at the final session of the Pennsylvania NAACP convention Sunday in Johnstown.

Lynch-Law Play Opens In Moscow

Montgomery Ala.

MOSCOW, Nov. 17 (AP)—Jean Paul Sartre's lynch-law play, "The Respectful Prostitute," opened its Moscow run under an alias tonight after a series of closed performances.

11-18-55

For the Soviet theater it was retitled "Lizzie McKay" and the leading character seemed almost pure enough to join the puritan Soviet Youth League.

12-C

The audience in Moscow's Soviet Theater cheered the return to the stage of Lubov Orlova, whose acting has been confined to movies for the past few years.

Although nearing 60, the actress gave a convincing portrayal. Some of the other actors overdid their parts and the man who played a Negro looked what he was—a Russian in blackface.

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SUBSTITUTE FOR ANTI-LYNCH LAW

State Times Baton Rouge La.

Report that Illinois Appellate Court ruled November 22 that a city can be held responsible for damages and injury resulting from mob violence gives ground for reflection. Wilbert K. Straton, a Negro injured in a public housing project disturbance had lost an earlier case in Circuit Court which the Appellate Court unanimously ordered retried. If cities can be successfully sued under existing law for damages and injuries resulting from mob violence, we may have a good practical present substitute for a national anti-lynch law.

ROOSEVELT URGES SUPPORT FOR ANTI-LYNCH BILLS

Worker Jackson Miss
Oct 29-55

Washington, James Roosevelt (D., Calif.) stated last week that he wished to "join in the swelling roar of protest that is rising against the insensate brutalities that are presently going unpunished in the State of Mississippi. That such inhuman crimes can be committed in our country is revolting, but that they can then be tacitly condoned is literally sickening."

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Anti-Lynch Law Urged By CIO Union

Call
Kansas City
Nov 18 55

FLINT, Mich. — (INS) — An "Emmett Till" rally of 4,000 persons in Flint Sunday, Nov. 13, passed a resolution urging CIO President Walter Reuther to press congress for an anti-lynching law.

The throng in the union hall of Buick local 599 (UAW-CIO) was told by Brendon Sexton, the union's education director:

"Officials of the state of Mississippi failed to uphold the law and disregarded the constitution."

He explained that under an anti-lynch law, such cases as the murder of the 14-year-old Chicago boy would be taken out of the hands of state authorities and given to federal juries.

The Till boy's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley, was given a collection of $1,300 to continue her speaking tour.

8972

CITY HELD LIABLE IN MOB VIOLENCE

Times-Picayune
Judge Fixes Responsibility for Damages
Fri. 11-25-55

CHICAGO, Nov. 24 (AP)—The Illinois Appellate Court ruled that a city can be held responsible for damages and injury resulting from mob violence. P. 5

The decision by three judges was a victory for Wilbert K. Slaton, Negro, injured in 1947 in racial disorders at the Fernwood Park Public Housing Project on the South Side.

New Orleans
Sat. 11-26-55

In the Circuit Court the city had won a directed verdict of acquittal. The Appellate Court reversed this finding and ordered the suit retried. Its opinion said in part:

"No group or segment of a community has the right to dictate by force or other unlawful means who shall or shall not live within a community."

It declared a victim of force has the right of redress against the city for not preventing unlawful assembly.

Slaton, who had no connection with the housing project or the disorders there, sued for damages under the state law for suppression of mob violence.

He related he was hit by stones while driving near the project Aug. 14, 1947. He alleged police were nowhere in sight. He said a stone knocked him unconscious and a woman passenger in his car also was hit.

City Responsible For Injury Laid To Mob Violence

Courier-Journal
Louisville, Ky.
Sat. 11-26-55

Chicago, Nov. 22 (AP)—The Illinois Appellate Court ruled today a city can be held responsible for damages and injury resulting from mob violence.

The unanimous decision by three judges was a victory for Wilbert K. Slaton, Negro, who was injured in 1947 in racial disorders while driving past Fernwood Park public-housing project on the South Side.

In the Circuit Court the City had won a directed verdict of acquittal.

The Appellate Court declared a victim of force has the right of redress against the City for not preventing unlawful assembly.

City Held Responsible For Violence Of Mobs

Defender
Chicago, Ill.
P. 4
Sat. 11-26-55

The Illinois Appellate court last week rendered a decision which could have far-reaching effect on mob violence in Chicago.

In a unanimous decision, the court ruled the city could be held responsible for injuries or damage suffered through mob violence.

The decision was handed down in connection with a $10,000 suit filed against the city. In his suit Wilbert K. Slaton, a postal employe, charged he was injured in racial disorders at Chicago's Fernwood Park housing project in 1947.

The Appellate court ruling reversed one handed down by a Circuit court in 1953 which relieved the city of liability in the case.

FOR RE-TRIAL

The case was remanded to Circuit court for re-trial.

Most observers see the Appellate court ruling as a blow to such racial disorders as have occurred spasmodically at the Trumbull Park housing project during the past two years. They say that fear of a bumper crop of suits will force the city to end racial disorders at once.

Stating the court's opinion in strong language, Justice Edwin A. Robson wrote:

"No group or segment of a community has the right to dictate by force or other unlawful means who shall or shall not live within a community.

"(A victim of such action) has the right or redress against the city for failure of the community and local authorities to effectively combat the unlawful assembly of people.

"This kind of outlawry, we believe, was one of the evils the statutes were designed to prevent."

HIT BY STONES

The plaintiff, Slaton, charged he was struck by stones while driving near the housing project on Aug. 14, 1947, in a convertible. He said as he passed a gathering of several thousands persons, someone started to throw rocks at him.

In the auto with him were five other persons. A woman passenger and Slaton were struck with missiles, he charged. He said he was knocked unconscious and that he suffered a skull fracture.

The disorders lasted for several months and were among the bitterest witnessed in the city.

27f 1955

LEGISLATION RELATING TO

8970

Till case points up need for a Federal anti-lynching law

From Memphis
Baltimore Md.
Jan 19 1955

State NAACP convention is largest in 21-year history

JOHNSTOWN, Pa. — Democratic congressmen from New York and Pennsylvania who hold hands with Democrats in Mississippi are encouraging the murder of colored people who try to vote in the south. Thus spoke Roy Wilkins, NAACP executive secretary in a speech closing the 21st annual convention of the Pennsylvania NAACP.

MR. WILKINS, who directs the work of the interracial civil rights group, told a large audience in Johnstown High School that there is something people can do about the murder of 14-year-old Emmett Till in Mississippi.

Mr. Wilkins said citizens of both political parties should demand that their party leaders and congressmen act to end the filibuster and to pass a federal anti-lynching law.

* * *

IN PENNSYLVANIA, he said, citizens should work to rid the state of all remnants of jim crow and should give more money to the NAACP's Fighting Fund for Freedom to make up for the loss of funds from colored people in the south who are suffering economic reprisals because they seek the right to vote.

Earlier in the three-day convention, delegates from 27 branches in the state endorsed a proposal asking Congress to declare vacant the seats of all representatives from Mississippi and to fill the vacancies by means of an election conducted under federal supervision.

* * *

OFFICERS, all re-elected are: Attorney Henry R. Smith Jr., Pittsburgh, president; Dr. James A. Gillespie, New Castle, first vice president; Joshua O. Thompson, Ambler, second vice president; Saul Griffin, Johnstown, third vice president; Mrs. Agnes H. Walker, Hollidaysburg, recording secretary; Miss Effie M. Brown, Pittsburgh, corresponding secretary; John B. Campbell, New Castle, financial secretary, and John G. Jones, Pittsburgh, treasurer.

* * *

DIRECTORS elected are: Frank D. Davis, Johnstown; George Morris, Philadelphia; Dr. B. K. Johnson, Johnstown; Harry McCraw, Monessen; Jesse Thompson, Erie;

Dr. George A. Jones, Harrisburg; Ira Thompson, Reading; Dr. Harry J. Greene, Philadelphia; Miss Ann Hines, Bryn Mawr; C. I. Moat, Media; Mrs. Sophia B. Nelson, Pittsburgh; Dr. G. A. Walker, Hollidaysburg; George Raymond, Chester.

* * *

OFFICERS of the Pennsylvania NAACP Youth Conference are Tessie Blanchard, Erie, re-elected president; James Frazier, Pittsburgh, first vice president; Joan McLaughlin, Ardmore, second vice president;

Mildred Hiland, Meadville, secretary; Sylvia Richardson, Johnstown, corresponding secretary; Eloise Patterson, Pittsburgh, treasurer; Advisers, both re-elected, are Mrs. Isabel Strickland, Ardmore, and Miss Adeline Blackman, Pittsburgh.

* * *

THE STATE NAACP will recommend to Governor George Leader that he appoint Attorney Henry R. Smith Jr., of Pittsburgh to the nine - member commission that will be set up to operate the new state fair employment practices commission.

By resolution the convention instructed all of its branches to set up local FEPC committees to help persons file complaints when they have been refused jobs because of race, creed, color or national origin.

* * *

THE 1955 Civil Rights Award of the organization was shared by three long-time workers and past presidents of the Pennsylvania NAACP.

They are Dr. James A. Gillespie of New Castle, Dr. Harry J. Greene, president of the Philadelphia Branch and a member of the national board; and Mrs. Sophia B. Nelson of Pittsburgh, who was unable to attend because of illness.

Five branches were cited for outstanding activities during the year.

* * *

THE BUCKS County branch exceeded its membership goal and is helping to fight a suit against the builders of Levittown who sell homes to white applicants only.

Johnstown branch also exceeded its membership goal. Higher membership figures were reported by the Philadelphia branch which is assisting in the Levittown case, and the Pittsburgh branch, which was active in securing a strong FEPC law for the city and is probing police brutality charges.

The Connellsville branch was cited for succeeding in getting a new housing project opened on an integrated basis and for helping in a community redevelopment campaign.

* * *

CONGRESSMAN John P. Saylor of Johnstown was the main speaker at the annual banquet Saturday night. In his "Report from Washington," Rep. Saylor praised the Eisenhower administration for eliminating most of the remaining segregation in the national capital and in the armed forces.

Referring to the south, he said it is a "dastardly blotch on America when people are denied the right to go to the polls and vote."

Louis Mason Jr., assistant administrator of the Pittsburgh FEPC law, said much of the responsibility for making the new state FEPC law work rests with NAACP branches.

* * *

HE SAID the NAACP must encourage minority groups to file complaints if they are discriminated against, and to publicize the fact that the law protects the person who files a complaint.

The state NAACP voted financial and moral aid to the Brownsville - Uniontown Branch in a restaurant discrimination case.

* * *

DR. B. K. JOHNSON, chairman of the convention committee, reported that the conference was the largest in the group's 21-year history. A total of 116 registered delegates and observers from 27 branches were present.

The convention next year will be held the last weekend in October in Erie.

* * *

A PANEL discussion on "Pitfalls in Housing" produced the statement by Roland Sawyer, executive secretary of the Pittsburgh Housing Association, that "housing is this country's greatest single domestic problem."

He said minority groups should get representation on redevelopment authorities to make sure that slum clearance projects don't become colored clearance projects.

James T. Goode, Pittsburgh realtor, said that financing is the main bottleneck that prevents many colored people from becoming home owners.

* * *

GEORGE MINNO, executive of a Johnstown lending agency, said that gyp home repairs have been one of the worst abuses in the housing picture.

William Stansbury, an official in the Philadelphia office of the Federal Housing Administration, said the FHA tries to show banks and other lending companies that loaning money to colored people is good business.

* * *

CROWNED Saturday night as King and Queen of the Pennsylvania NAACP in a statewide popularity contest were Lee Gregory of Philadelphia and Mrs. Viola Watkins of New Castle.

27g 1955

MISSISSIPPI

8973

Mississippi Negro Accused of Rape

GREENWOOD, Miss. - (ANP) —A 22-year-old Sidon Negro who reportedly was known as a "troublemaker" among his friends, was held in an undisclosed jail cell last week after he supposedly confessed to police that he dragged a white widow from her home and raped her in a cornfield.

Sheriff George Smith identified the man as Leroy Potts and said that he surrendered peacefully to him and two deputized citizens after he was found under a pile of brush in a break.

The sheriff said six-foot, 250-pound Potts broke into the home after she refused to open the door, mauled her viciously and dragged her into the nearby cornfield where he raped her.

The woman's young daughter was also grabbed by Potts, the sheriff said, but she succeeded in freeing herself and ran to a neighbor's home for help.

The neighbor telephoned the sheriff and Smith and the deputies said they arrived while Potts was in the process of assaulting the widow.

Records revealed Potts had never been arrested before, despite a reputation among his friends as a "trouble-maker."

The reported attack was supposedly the third criminal assault in Leflore county in 18 months, in which white women and Negro men were involved.

Mob violence threatened in Mississippi murder

Birmingham News

GREENWOOD, Miss., Sept. 5 — (AP) — Heavily armed men guarded two white prisoners against threatened mob violence today as a Grand Jury prepared to study their connection with the fatal shooting of a Negro youth from Chicago.

Mon. 9-5-55

Till's mother, Mrs. Mamie Bradley of Chicago, has said the body is that of her son.

Sheriff George Smith of LeFlore County said he had received calls threatening action against Roy Bryant, 24, resident of the Money community, and his half-brother, J. W. Milam, of Glendora, 36.

They are charged with kidnaping Emmett Till, 14, of Chicago, after Till whistled at Mrs. Bryant in her husband's country store. They claimed they freed the boy later.

Sheriff H. C. Strider of Tallahatchie County, where a body identified as that of Till was found in a river, said members of the Bryant family and other persons had their cars forced off the road over the week-end by automobiles bearing Illinois license plates.

STRIDER SAID HE HAD received letters threatening Bryant and Milam. He said one also threatened the life of James H. Bryant, a brother of the jailed man, who is stationed in the Navy in New York. The Navy was notified, Strider said.

Strider said most of the letters, which he described as "filthy and vicious," were postmarked in Chicago. He said he has asked the FBI to investigate.

The Tallahatchie County Grand Jury met today, and Dist. Atty. Gerald Chatham said he would present the case either today or tomorrow.

Among the anonymous threats was one that 1000 Negroes were bound toward Greenwood from Chicago. There were no reports verifying such a caravan, however.

REFERRING TO THE CARS being forced from the roads, Strider said, "Those folks seemed to think they are coming down here and take over—I don't think they are."

Smith ordered out National Guardsmen and deputies to join police in patrolling the courthouse area. He said he had authority from Gov. Hugh White to call out National Guardsmen.

Strider, who has said the body may not be that of Till, declared he thinks Till is alive. But no other official in the case supports this theory.

27g 1955

OKLAHOMA

8974

Slayer of Family Is Heavily Guarded In Oklahoma Jail

By the Associated Press

McALESTER, Okla., Mar. 28 — Dr. Ben T. Galbraith, confessed killer of his wife and three young children, calmly read details of his confession in a newspaper after his transfer to jail to await arraignment scheduled today.

The arraignment will be on a murder charge stemming from the bizarre deaths in the family's fire-swept home Thursday. The 34-year-old former president of the Pittsburg County Medical Society remained under heavy guard last night.

Pittsburg County Attorney James P. Whyte announced the confession yesterday morning after Dr. Galbraith was returned here by Sheriff D. E. Sanders after his arrest in Henderson, Tenn., Monday. Dr. Galbraith was at the Henderson home of his socially-prominent mother after attending the burial of his family at Bells, Tenn., his wife's former home. Dr. Galbraith was a graduate of the University of Tennessee.

Dr. Galbraith broke down under questioning and related a terrorizing early morning ordeal which wiped out his family.

His confession told of hitting his wife on the head with a vermouth bottle and injecting a shot of morphine. It was then, he said, he decided to kill the children by morphine injection.

"They still were breathing and I couldn't set the house afire and wake them up," he related. Then, he said, he gave each a shot of insecticide containing nicotine and set about starting fires throughout the house by using inflammable fluids such as turpentine, kerosene and paint thinner.

Dr. Galbraith said he then drove to Norman, returned to McAlester and made a hospital call about 9 a.m., feigning surprise when a nurse mentioned the tragedy to him.

After the confession, Mr. Whyte asked Dr. Galbraith if he wanted anything.

"Yes, I have one favor," he replied. "I would like to die as quickly and privately as possible."

Dr. Galbraith was swathed in bandages about his head and hands resulting from a leap from the automobile which transported him from Henderson to Memphis Monday night. He flung himself in front of a car traveling about 60 miles an hour but missed the wheels, Sheriff Sanders reported.

Suspicion against the doctor was aroused when four persons, satisfying their curiosity, found in the ruins of the home a broken glass syringe and a bent hypodermic needle near the body of Mrs. Galbraith, whose head bore a severe cut. Another syringe with blond hair on it was found near one of the children's beds.

A letter which Dr. Galbraith said contained his motive also was found. It read, in part: "Despair, frustration, restlessness. All this haunts and tantalizes me. I have sudden yearnings to be alone, away from everything that moves, feels or reacts . . . I would like to kill myself but I retreat from this. Behind all this trouble I suspect is fear of poverty which I remember having as a child."

Dr. Galbraith said he never had any trouble with his wife.



—AP Wirephoto.

DR. GALBRAITH ON A HAPPIER DAY—McAlester, Okla.—Dr. Ben T. Galbraith, 34, is shown in happier times with his three children (left to right), Jere, 5; Frank, 7, and Sarah Ann, 4. Dr. Galbraith yesterday admitted the murder of the children and wife Mary Katherine, 35. Mrs. Galbraith and three children were found dead in their blazing home last Thursday.

27g 1955

SOUTH CAROLINA

8975

8975

Fear Mob Violence in S.C. Killing

COLUMBIA, S. C., Dec. 20 (AP) — A convict who told police that he slew a young Marine and beheaded a fifteen-year-old girl friend near Pamplico, S. C., Dec. 6 to rob them of $18 was locked in a security cell of the state penitentiary today as authorities hoped to avoid any mob violence.

Raymond Carney, thirty-six, was captured by three hunters near Johnsonville, S. C., yesterday and rushed here by police as an angry crowd gathered around the Johnsonville jail.

Officers said Carney readily admitted to the brutal murders of Betty Claire Cain, of Pamplico, and her Sunday night companion, Harvey B. Allen, twenty-two, of Latta, S. C.

Police said that during the trip from Johnsonville, he told how he shot the two during a robbery, beheaded the girl with a pocket knife and then buried the two bodies separately.

Col. Wyndham Manning, head of the penitentiary, said that Carney repeated his confession before a crowd of police when he arrived here.

Col. Manning said the fugitive nearly escaped from the jail in Johnsonville. Carney somehow got a tire tool and almost pried open his cell door while police were outside the jail trying to quiet the mob that quickly gathered. Officers returned to the cell just in time to keep him from escaping.

The savage slayings touched off one of the biggest manhunts in South Carolina history, but Carney told police that he was never more than twenty miles from Pamplico in the thirteen days he was hunted after the murder.

He said he slept in tobacco barns and several times went into stores to buy food with the $18 he took from the body of Mr. Allen.

Rewards totaling $4,500 were offered for the capture of the killer, and police said the money would probably go to the hunters.

Carney, who escaped from a North Carolina prison last March, became a top suspect in the double slaying when he was reported missing from his small cabin, not far from the spot where he surprised the couple as they sat parked in Mr. Allen's car.

Police found spent gun cartridges in the cabin, and last night Carney told them where to find the murder weapon and a watch he had taken from Mr Allen's body.

Carney's trial will be held in Florence, S. C., sometime around Jan. 4. Col. Manning said he will be heavily guarded, since Florence is only twenty miles from Pamplico.

27g 1955

TENNESSEE

8976

Farmer, Wife, 2 Youngsters Slain in Tenn.

McMINNVILLE, Tenn., March 27 (AP)—The bodies of a farmer, his wife and two young children were found today scattered about their farm home near here and police arrested a neighbor on suspicion of murder.

Sheriff Eldridge Youngblood said Henry Bratcher, about 50, his wife, Vassie Fields Bratcher, and a 10-year-old daughter, Lily May, apparently were beaten to death. A 20-months-old granddaughter, Charlotte Ann Bratcher, appeared to have been drowned.

Youngblood said their collie watchdog also was slain.

SMALL COMMUNITY

Officers arrested a farmer, Billy Gibbs, 26, who lived near the Bratchers in the small farming community of Rowland's Station, about six or seven miles from here, for questioning in the case. They said Gibbs denied the murder.

Youngblood said Gibbs had been taken to an undisclosed jail for safe keeping as high feeling was stirred up among the Bratchers' neighbors by the brutal slaying.

Investigators went to the farm today after Bratcher's son, Charles, reported to police that he had gone to visit his daughter last night and found only a note on the front door saying, "baby is in hospital in Nashville."

Charles Bratcher said he went to police after wondering why he had not been notified in advance if his daughter was sick.

DOG IN YARD

Youngblood said that on arriving at the farm they first saw the body of the dog in the yard.

Bratcher's body was concealed in a sorghum mill nearby. The bodies of the woman and their daughter were hidden in a sink hole while the baby was stuffed in a cistern.

Youngblood said Gibbs was arrested last night while driving Bratcher's light truck. The sheriff said the young farmer was also found to have sold some meat from Bratcher's smokehouse in a nearby community.

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8977

Police blotter—

East Lake woman attacked in home

An East Lake housewife was criminally assaulted in her home last midnight while her husband was at work.

The 38-year-old victim, mother of two children, was attacked in her living room where she had fallen asleep while waiting up for her husband.

Birmingham Dets. B. A. MacMurdo and C. B. Golden said the attacker crawled through a living room window while the woman dozed. He aroused her when he accidentally knocked a radio from a sewing machine.

Electric lights burned in all parts of the home, located in a thinly settled section of East Lake.

The woman's teen-aged daughter and a younger son were asleep in their beds.

The intruder, a Negro man wearing a brown jacket, held his hand in his pocket, threatening harm to her children if she did not keep quiet. She remained silent, she said.

Almost immediately after entering the room, he pulled an apron the woman was wearing over her face to keep her from getting a description of his appearance.

He then threw her on the living room floor and attacked her, she told police.

The man fled through a rear door later after selecting a small black purse used by the woman's daughter. The purse held her high school schedules and school supplies.

Officers B. M. Hardwick and C. L. Baggett, first to reach the scene, said the intruder escaped in the darkness. He had apparently approached the home from the rear.

Railmen Too Late To Prevent Rape

BIRMINGHAM, Aug. 1 (AP)—A white woman was raped by a Negro man before three train crewmen who saw her grabbed could come to her rescue, police said today.

Detective C. L. Pierce said the three trainmen reversed the train which they were switching when they saw the man grab the woman about a block away.

When they reached the scene the man jumped up and ran away. Pierce said officers had a good description of the hunted man.

Identity of the 29-year-old woman was withheld. She was walking to work along a remote section of track when she was seized by the attacker, Pierce said.

Anniston Cops Arrest Rapist

An 18-year-old Negro youth who escaped three years ago from the Mt. Meigs reformatory 10 miles from Montgomery was arrested yesterday in Anniston on charges of raping a white woman there, attempting to rape two Negro women and of nighttime burglary.

Charles Edward Robinson, native of Anniston, escaped from the Alabama Industrial School for Negroes at Mt. Meigs on Dec. 19, 1952. He had been committed to the reformatory at the age of 14 for attempted rape. Robinson had escaped once before.

The escapee is charged with raping an Anniston woman after dragging her behind a parked truck in a parking lot there; and attempting to assault two Negro women.

His arrest ended a widespread hunt which began last night when a Negro woman's screams awoke two white truck drivers, who rescued her from her attacker.

A short time later another Negro woman fought off the advances of a Negro who broke into her bedroom through a window.

Bloodhounds from Camp Heflin were brought here to aid city police, deputies and Alabama State Highway Patrolmen in the hunt. A description given by the second Negro woman led to Robinson's arrest.

Robinson was quoted by Detective Ed Taylor as saying he escaped from Mt. Meigs in 1952, lived for a year in Birmingham and then returned to Anniston.

Robinson was sent to Mt. Meigs in 1951, at the age of 14, for attempted rape.

The white woman, whose name was withheld by officers, was raped here Friday night after she was dragged behind a parked truck in a dimly lighted parking lot. She also was robbed of about 80 cents.

Rape and nighttime burglary are capital offenses under Alabama law.

Alabama Boy Held In 3 Attack Cases

ANNISTON, Ala., Sept. 2 (AP).—An 18-year-old Negro youth was arrested yesterday on charges of raping a white woman, attempting to rape two Negro women and of nighttime burglary.

He was identified as Charles Edward Robinson, an escapee from Alabama Industrial School for Negroes at Mount Meigs, near Montgomery.

His arrest ended a widespread hunt which began last night when a Negro woman's screams awoke two white truck drivers, who rescued her from her attacker. A short time later another colored woman fought off the advances of a Negro who broke into her bedroom through a window.

A description given by the second Negro woman led to Robinson's arrest.

The white woman, whose name was withheld by officers, was raped here Friday night after she was dragged behind a parked truck in a dimly lighted parking lot.

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ARKANSAS

8978

Girl Expecting, Man Jailed

VAN BUREN, Ark.—Thomas Scott, 49-year-old man of Fort Smith, has been charged with carnal abuse of a 15-year-old white girl.

Prosecutor N. D. Edwards of Van Buren said Scott was charged after the girl's uncle reported that she was five or six months pregnant. He said Scott once lived near the girl's home here and later moved to Fort Smith.

Fort Smith Detectives Ralph Middleton and Ernest Howard arrested Scott and turned him over to Assistant Police Chief Tommy Wilbanks of Van Buren. Prosecutor Edwards said he expected Scott to be tried in the July term of Crawford Circuit Court.

8979

Assault Case Is Continued

A hearing for four teen-age boys charged with raping a 29-year-old Arlington woman has been continued until tomorrow by Fairfax Trial Justice John A. Rothrock, who also presides as juvenile judge.

Judge Rothrock yesterday ordered psychiatric examinations for the four youths, all colored, before he decides whether they should be certified as adults for prosecution.

The hearing was scheduled to be held yesterday. The four, from 14 to 17 years old, were represented by Thomas R. Mongroe, president of the Arlington chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and Edwin C. Brown, president of the Alexandria NAACP chapter.

The white victim and her companion, a 32-year-old Arlington man, told police they had just parked in a woods along Arlington boulevard July 27 when the four teen-agers, armed with guns and knives, appeared. The man said he was forced at gunpoint to get out of the car and lie on the ground while a knife was held at his back. The woman told police the four boys then took turns attacking her.

The four also have been charged with attacking a colored woman in the same spot July 26.

Flees Other Hillendale Pupils

Masked Sex Offender Attacks Girl, 9, His Third Victim in Less Than Month

A masked sex offender struck yesterday for the third time in a month, his latest victim a nine-year-old Hillendale girl.

The attack took place in a wooded area behind Hillendale elementary school.

Montgomery County police said the assailant's description tallied with that of a man who had attacked two school children near the Viers Mill elementary school on Sept. 21 and Sept. 29.

The latest victims was accosted as she left school, according to police. Her assailant, his face masked by a white handkerchief, was frightened off by a group of approaching school children, they said.

Police scoured the wooded area until dust to no avail.

The girl described her attacker as in his early 20s, about 5 foot 7, with dark blond hair. He wore blue dungarees with a 5-inch rip on the right side, she told police.

Detectives said the girl was hysterical, but notified her parents as soon as she arrived at her home.

The earlier victims were a 13-year-old Viers Mill girl and a 13-year-old Garrett Park boy.

The last two attacks have occurred on Wednesdays. The Viers Mill School has been kept under surveillance for several weeks.

Two Young Baby-Sitters Assaulted

Herald Bureau

FORT LAUDERDALE — Two young Fort Lauderdale baby-sitters—aged 9 and 14—were raped just a block apart within a two-hour period early Sunday morning.

The sheriff's office said it was holding two Negro suspects captured shortly after the attacks. One has been identified by the White girls as their assailant.

The terror-filled three-hour episode began in a house on 25th st. at about 2:15 a.m.

The 14-year-old girl, who was hysterical on the return of the parents at about 3:20 a.m., said she was awakened by a Negro man standing over her bed.

She said the man fled through a back door. The child told investigators she turned all the lights in the house on for a while, made sure all the doors were locked, then turned off all lights except one.

She said she returned to bed, but heard a voice or voices, and a sound like a screen being cut. She told police she pretended to be asleep, but was struck as she was in bed, and then assaulted.

Examination by the county medical examiner bore out her story.

At about that time, the 9-year-old baby-sitter was being attacked by a man who held a knife at her throat and threatened to kill her if she struggled or cried out.

The second attack occurred at a trailer park, just a block from the scene of the 25th st. rape.

and C. M. Wood that she was accosted by the Negro as she was taking some trash to the rear of her apartment.

She said the Negro grabbed her and waved a knife in her face. She broke away, fell, then got up and ran to the street.

Minutes later the officers found her there. They took her to Jackson Memorial, where she is in good condition with a laceration of the left leg.

Woman Gets Away From Attacker

Police were searching Sunday for a knife-wielding Negro who threatened and injured a northeast section woman in an alleyway.

Mary Brindley, 34, of 212 NE 36th st., told Officers T. Jervis

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GEORGIA

8981

Hold Attack Suspect Here

Police said yesterday they have arrested a 36 year old laborer on suspicion of raping and robbing a white woman about two weeks ago on Northside Dr. near 10th Street.

The suspect was identified as John Brown of 826 Cooper St. S. W. Charges were placed against him yesterday by Detective J. L. Carney who reported booking the suspect after observing him in the Station Master's office.

The white woman was wounded raped and robbed about two weeks ago and her attacker was chased by two Negro men, police said.

Police said the suspect was the owner of a 1953 Pontiac and worked at the Atlanta Flooring Co.

walking toward her home. Detectives said the assailant grabbed her when she reached Northside Drive, began choking her and dragged her over the embankment.

When the pressure on her throat was lessened, officers said, she began to scream. Austin and the unidentified man came to her rescue. The attacker grabbed up her pocketbook and fled.

Widow Robbed, Pulled Over Bank, Assaulted

Sat 12-17-55

A 51-year-old widow was severely beaten, raped and robbed of her purse containing $45 by a Negro man who pulled her over an embankment on Northside drive, NW, Friday, police said.

Two other Negro men attracted by the woman's shouts for help came to her rescue. Dets. M. W. Blackwell and M. A. Johnson said the two chased the man on foot for more than a mile.

One, Robert Austin, of 1022 Northside Dr., NW, accompanied police with bloodhound packs on the trail for an additional four miles. Officers failed to obtain the name of the second pursuer.

Patrol cars were jam-packed in the northwest area as the manhunt spread. Capt. E. O. Mullen, in charge of the evening patrol watch, at one point saw a man believed to be the attacker, but lost sight of him in a footrace.

The woman evidently was stabbed over the right eye or was dragged through broken glass when pulled over the embankment, police said. Several stitches were required to close the wound.

Detectives said marks were visible on her throat where she had been choked and her body was covered with scratches and bruises.

The victim, a dental technician, got off a bus at Hemphill Ave. and Tenth St., NW and began

8982

Indict Sex Prowler Who Terrorized Socialites

Defender p. 5 Chicago, Ill.

James McDonald, 24-year-old sex prowler and robber who terrorized Chicago's wealthy Hyde Park residential area for two months, attacking socialite women and forcing them into unnatural sex acts, was indicted by a Cook County grand jury last week on five counts.

Ind., 11-5-55

The indictment came five days after McDonald was arrested by detectives on Oct. 21, in the rear yard of Mrs. Jesse Owens, wife of the famed track runner.

McDonald was indicted on charges of robbery, assault and battery, house-breaking, and burglary.

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Four of McDonald's victims identified him as the terrorist who robbed and sexually abused them at gunpoint in their homes. Two other socialites, including a 21-year-old nurse who was held captive over two hours, were not sure of their identification.

Ten special police details were assigned "to capture" McDonald. Eighteen additional officers from other Chicago districts were shifted into the Hyde Park area, upon request of Capt. Joseph Graney after approximately 35 irate husbands held an emergency meeting.

The outbreaks against the Hyde Park socialites numbered seven in all. In each case the attacker entered a bedroom window long after midnight. He knew the husband was not home or slept in a separate room.

McDonald would then push his 32 caliber revolver in the striken victim's face, tell her "don't scream, all I want is your money."

However, to McDonald, the money was secondary. He threw the bed covers over her face, lowered the handkerchief he wore as a mask and proceeded to molest her.

When captured last Friday, McDonald had a handkerchief tied around his neck, and he wore a gray cotton cap. In one of his pockets was a pair of dirty cotton gloves. In one of his other pockets was a .32 caliber revolver.

McDonald weighs about 200 pounds and stands about 5 feet 11 inches. His Army discharge lists him as 24, although he appears to be considerably older.

SUITCASES OF LOOT

The youth refused to tell police whether he was the prowler they were seeking. "What if I don't talk?" he said. "You're going to send me away, anyway."

It took police three days to find McDonald's address, at 4726 Michigan, where he roomed. When detectives searched his room they found two suitcases loaded with loot.

In one suitcase were two .25 caliber automatics, an expensive movie camera and a stack of pornographic literature. He had two dresser drawers full of moderately priced dress shirts, and a rack of suits. Text books from a school in Wisconsin led police to believe he was a college-educated man.

According to dates on his discharge, McDonald spent almost two years in the Army as a military policeman. He was honorably discharged on Sept. 7, 1954.

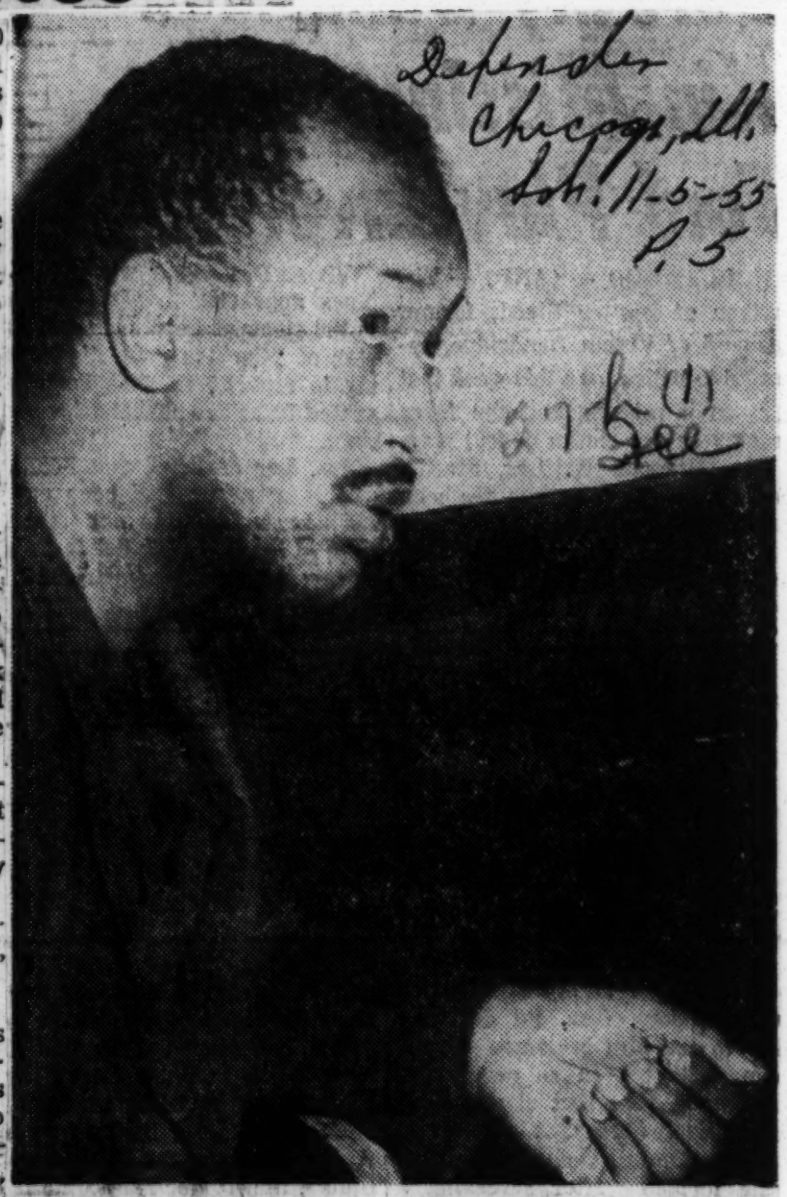
The discharge stated that McDonald was born in Pine Bluff, Mo., in 1930.

GETS $1,000

After four days of continuous questioning, McDonald still refused to confess. But Det. James Walsh, who called the victims to the showup after comparing McDonald with their descriptions, said McDonald would be questioned about other Southside sex crimes.

The four victims who identified McDonald all signed robbery complaints against him. Over $1,000 in cash was taken from the seven women.

McDonald's capture came less than 24 hours after the Chicago Defender printed the accounts of his attacks on Hyde Park women.



Defender Chicago, Ill. Ind. 11-5-55 p. 5

27h(1) See

FLASHING BLANK stare in police station after his arrest is accused Hyde Park sex prowler James McDonald, 24. McDonald was identified by four socialites as robber who attacked and sexually abused them. Defender photo by Rhoden.

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ILLINOIS

8983

SEIZED IN RAPE CASES; NAMED ASSAILANT BY 5

27h(1)

Identified as Robber by Two Men

[Reprinted from yesterday's late editions]

An ex-convict accused as the rapist-robber who preyed on couples in parked cars on the west side and in two western suburbs seized by police Thursday as the result of a traffic accident, was identified last night by five women who said he had attacked them. Two men, one of whom was shot, identified him as a robber.



Cornes

The prisoner is Ernest Cornes, 22, of 257 N. Francisco av. Lt. Roland Bruni of the Cicero police said Cornes' car struck a truck driven by Gordon Stevens, 23, of Rhineland, Wis., early yesterday at 13th st. and Cicero av., Cicero. When Stevens went to call police Cornes, whose name was not known at the time, fled, leaving his car behind.

In the auto, which had no license plates, police found a woman's wristwatch and two traffic tickets. The tickets led to Cornes, and he was arrested in his home by Cicero police and Detective Joseph Sidlo and Al Decoghe of the Warren av. police.

Bruni recalled a wrist watch had been taken from an Oak Park woman last Saturday. The woman fled from her escort's auto when the gunman attempted to molest her. A check of the serial numbers revealed the watch belonged to her.

This woman identified Cornes, as did two rape victims from Cicero. One of the victims had been raped only a few minutes before Cornes was involved in the accident.

Three women from Chicago also identified Cornes. All of the rape victims were in autos with their escorts. Dates and locations of the assaults on the Chicago women were: Nov. 8, in Kedzie av., near Washington blvd.; Nov. 27, in the 2800 block in Van Buren st., and Dec. 10, in the 1400 block in S. Hamlin av.

Two robbery victims who identified Cornes were Sexto Pepin, 26, of 215 S. California av., who was shot in the leg while being robbed Nov. 27, and an Oak Parker robbed in November while putting his car in his garage.

Brani said Cornes denied the crimes. He said Cornes admitted being on parole from Joliet penitentiary where he served 19 months of a two year robbery term.

Chicago Police Catch Slayer Who Raped Girl In Last Fling

Courier-Journal
Fri. 9-16-55

Chicago, Sept. 15 (U.P.)—Police today captured a crazed gunman who killed a newspaper foreman and then raped a 20-year-old woman for a "last fling."

Michael Morabito, 31, was seized after a dramatic scene in which the slayer and a detective faced each other with drawn pistols.

But Morabito, who had threatened to kill more, weakened and did not fire. He was run down on a Northwest Side street after a police detective had fired a number of shots at him.

Disheveled and snarling, Morabito was taken to headquarters, where police said he admitted both the slaying and the rape.

Morabito had been sought since he stalked into the press room of the Chicago Daily News yesterday and shot and killed mail-room foreman Henry George, 45.

Ex-Employee of Paper

A former mail-room employee of the newspaper, Morabito was described as a victim of "mental unrest." He apparently went berserk when he was refused his old job back.

Asked why he killed George, who previously had been his friend, Morabito said only, "I had a lot on my mind."

While squads of police scoured the city for him last night, Morabito accosted a radio-station receptionist on her way home from work and forced her to accompany him to a hotel.

When told there were no more roome at the hotel, Morabito took the woman to a Lake Michigan beach and raped her.

'It's My Last Fling'

"I've had a thrill, wine, and now this," he told the frightened girl. "It's my last fling and now my life is complete."

Today Detective Peter Rednik, who had been working on the case and was on his way home, spotted Morabito while getting gasoline for his automobile at a filing station.

Rednik drew his pistol and started toward Morabito, who also pulled his gun. For tense seconds the two faced each other with pointed weapons.

Then Morabito began to sidle away, and Rendik fired a shot when the fugitive failed to heed a command to drop his gun.

Morabito dropped as if hit by the shot, then leaped up annd dashed away as Rendik approached him.

Rendik fired three more shots. All missed. Three other detectives arrived to give chase, and Morabito was caught a short distance away in the area near his home.

Morabito left the employment of the Daily News last month after he had been advised to seek medical care. Newspaper officials said he had believed a "gang" was after him.

RAPIST INVADES HOME, ATTACKS NURSE 2 HOURS

Sunday Tribune
Chicago, Ill.
Sun. 10-16-55

Seek Sex Moron in 6th Crime of Type

A sex moron entered a nurses' home at 4939 Greenwood av. early yesterday and forced a 20 year old nurse to submit to mistreatment for two hours.

Based on his description and conversation, Capt. Joseph Graney said it was the sixth such offense committed by the man, a Negro about 32, in recent weeks. In the other cases, Graney said, the man entered homes where women were alone and forced attentions on them.

27h(1)

A Handkerchief Mask

The intruder wore a handkerchief mask when he entered the nurses' home about 2:30 a. m., apparently thru a sunporch window on the first floor. He went to the nurse's room on the second floor and pulled her out of bed.

The young woman told police the man carried a flashlight and a revolver. He forced her to disrobe, then forced attentions on her.

She was too frightened to scream and some 20 other nurses in the home were unaware of the crim until the man fled and the victim awakened other nurses.

Flees by Same Window

The man ran down the stairs inside the home, and fled thru the window by which he had entered, police said.

Capt. Graney said his detectives have arrested four suspects in the six weeks since the first crime occurred, but that all were cleared in lie detector tests.

Alleged Attacker of Child Sought

Police Wednesday were searching for a young Negro man who attacked a four-year-old white girl about 12:10 p. m. Wednesday in an allyway between 7715 - 17 Sycamore.

Patrolmen John Eiermann and Jacob Borrouso reported that the child came to her home on Neron place, crying and told her mother that "a bad colored man tried to hurt me."

Police said the child bore Red marks where someone had grabbed her and a closer examination revealed she had been molested.

Meanwhile police began its search for the man who was described as being about five feet eight inches tall, slim build, dark skin, short hair who rode a bicycle. He was dressed in blue trousers, with a red or rust colored shirt and loafer type shoes.

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MARYLAND

8986

Worst case in history of Md. court

Victim saw vision of dead mother

Mixed jury finds three rapists guilty

ELLICOTT CITY, Md.—Three men who denied that they assaulted a 12-year-old Baltimore girl in an automobile behind a tavern of Washington Blvd., after forcing her to accompany them on a six-hour sex orgy in Howard County, will escape the gas chamber.

The trio was accused of picking up four young school girls in front of a friend's house in the 300 block N. Gilmor St., on May 6.

The four girls had gone to the Gilmor St. home after sitting and singing in Harlem Square for more than an hour.

• • •

WHILE THEY were sitting on the steps, three men drove by in a car and asked them to go for a ride. One of the occupants was said to be an uncle of one of the girls.

After stopping at Saratoga and Stricker Sts., to look for a boy named "Red," the group drove on to Pearl and Fayette Sts., where three of the girls, including the victim's sister, left the car.

While they were gone, one of the men placed his hands over the girl's mouth to keep her from screaming, the other closed the windows of the car, and the third drove away.

• • •

AT A GILMOR St. bar the driver stopped to purchase a bottle of rum and a coke then continued on to Washington Blvd.

Upon reaching a tavern known as "Moore's," two of the men went inside while the third remained in the car with the girl and assaulted her after threatening her with a straight razor.

The two other men then returned to the car, took a revolver from a glove compartment, and assaulted the girl in succession.

• • •

TESTIMONY IN the rape case marked it as one of the most sensational in the history of Baltimore County.

One of the men, Jesse Pinkney, 39, of the 1600 block McCulloh St., was tried on Monday and found guilty by a male jury of colored and white persons that recommended a verdict without capital punishment.

On Tuesday following an all-day hearing in which the young girl testified that she had hallucinations while being assaulted, two of the men were found guilty of carnally knowing and abusing a female under the age of 13.

They were Robert D. Johnson, 20, of the 1100 block Brewer St., and Joseph W. Brown, 21, of the 1300 block Etting St.

Sentences were deferred by County Court Judge James [illegible].

FIVE CHARGES in all were filed against the defendants. They were charged with statutory rape, assault, carnal knowledge, intent to rape, and assault with intent to rape.

With the exception of the third count, the rest of the charges were dropped.

The case first came to the attention of the Northwestern District police in Baltimore when the girl's father reported the assault.

Asked to recall some of the things she remembered about the assault, the girl stated that she recalled seeing her mother sitting on the automobile seat with her.

Asked by State's Attorney C. Orman Monahan if she said anything to her mother she replied: "No." Her mother died about a year ago.

The three defendants were represented by Bernard Goldberg and James Clark, attorneys.

• • •

IN CONNECTION with the case, 11 officers from the Northwestern District were called on to testify.

• • •

AT THE beginning of Tuesday's trial the victim was the first to be called to the witness stand. A part of the dialogue between the child and State's Attorney Monahan follows:

Q—Where and with whom were you living on May 6?

A—With my father in the 600 block N. Fulton Ave.

Q—Who did you meet on that date?

A—Estell Johnson, Inez Williams, and my sister Patricia.

Q—Where did the four of you go?

A—We were sitting in Harlem Square singing when we decided to go over to Estell's house.

Q—Tell the court what took place after that?

A—We were sitting on the steps when Jesse, Johnson and Brown drove by. Jesse was driving. We got in the car with them and they drove to Saratoga and Stricker Sts., and parked.

"Estell said Jesse was her uncle. While we were looking for a boy named "Red" we parked on Pearl and Fayette Sts.

"There my sister and the rest of the girls got out of the car but told me to stay inside. I was in the middle between Jesse and Johnson when Brown put his hands over my mouth. Johnson rolled up the windows of the car and Jesse drove off.

"Somewhere on Gilmor St., they stopped to buy some rum. They said, that's what teenagers drink.

"Johnson went in to get the rum and when I tried to get out he wouldn't let me.

"They mixed the drink with coke and Jesse told me to drink. Then they drove out to Howard County to a tavern in Ellicott City.

"They parked behind the tavern and Johnson and Jesse got out. Brown told me to get in the back seat.

"He pulled out a razor and told me that I knew what he wanted and if I wasn't ready when he got back it would be just too bad.

"Brown had an intercourse with me then Johnson and Jesse came back. Johnson got in the car and Jesse got a pistol from the glove compartment and gave it to him.

"I pleaded with Johnson when he told me: 'You know what I want. If you don't I will blow your head off.'

"After that was over, Jesse came and told me to lie back down. After that they took me back to town.

When I got home around three my father was asleep in the living room and I told him what had happened."

8987

Asks U.S. To Clear Deputy In Assault

CLARKSDALE, Miss. — Miriam M. Gotcher, sheriff of Coahoma county, and the U.S. Fidelity and Guaranty asked a federal judge to dismiss charges against a deputy sheriff who reportedly assaulted a Negro woman while pretending to arrest her.

U. S. Fidelity and Guaranty, which bonded Mrs. Gotcher, cited seven reasons for dismissal, among them that there is no authorization for such a suit to be brought on the bond of a sheriff for the wrongful act of a deputy. The company also said that Deputy Sheriff N. F. Black was acting on his own and not in pursuance of his duties.

Sheriff Gotcher asserted that the language in the suit by Ruthie Mae Miller Luster, asking $250,000 damages, is "couched in such revolting and indecent terms as to greatly offend the dignity of the court and contaminate its public records with indescribable filth."

Mrs. Luster has contended that Deputy Sheriff Black, under the guise of arresting her Acg. 28, 1954, assaulted her causing permanent injuries.

LABORER IS ACCUSED OF ASSAULT ATTEMPT

Commercial Appeal

Negro Charged By Quitman County White Woman

Special to The Commercial Appeal

MARKS, Miss., Sept. 24.—A 27-year-old Negro farm laborer has been charged with the attempted rape of a 30-year-old Quitman County white woman, Deputy Sheriff L. L. Russell said Saturday.

Deputy Russell said a warrant has been issued for the arrest of Wilson Melton, day laborer on the R. E. Chapman rice plantation about 15 miles south of here. The Negro is charged with making improper advances to the wife of a mechanic on the Tallahatchie River plantation Friday afternoon, he said.

Officers in Mississippi and Arkansas have been asked to watch for the Negro, the deputy said.

Deputy Russell said the housewife told him that Melton came to her home about 4 Friday afternoon and asked for a drink of water.

While her 8-year-old son was in the kitchen getting the water, Melton put his right arm around the back of the chair she was sitting in and his other arm across her lap, the deputy said.

"He said he wanted to talk to me," the woman said. She said she broke away from her attacker and got a shotgun behind a door, but the Negro ran out of the room before she could shoot.

Her husband was working in a distant field on the plantation at the time, she said.

Deputy Russell said Melton is probably headed back to Joiner, Ark., where he lived before coming here two years ago.

NEGRO IS ACCUSED IN CRIMINAL ATTACK

Commercial Appeal

White Woman, 65, Taken To Durant Hospital

HOUNDS TRACK SUSPECT

Special to The Commercial Appeal

DURANT, Miss., Dec. 23. — Two Negro men, one accused of raping a 65-year-old white woman near here Thursday night, were arrested early Friday morning, officers said.

Sheriff Richard Byrd said Sam Brown, about 26, and Mac Drake, about 25, were placed in Lexington jail after being tracked down by bloodhounds from the State Penitentiary at Parchman.

Knock On Front Door

The sheriff said the woman told him that she was alone in her home three miles west of Durant about 10 Thursday night when someone knocked on the front door and said "Isabel wanted to see her." Isabel is the victim's Negro cook.

The woman refused to let the Negro man inside, but a short time later he knocked open the rear door of the house with a heavy iron pipe, the sheriff said.

The woman's husband said the Negro forced his wife to give him $13 which she had in the house, then criminally assaulted her.

The Negro had a knife and probably would have killed her if the victim's daughter and son-in-law had not entered the house, causing the man to flee, the woman's husband said.

Taken To Hospital

The victim was taken to a Durant hospital and was suffering from multiple bruises and shock. Her husband said a Durant physician who examined her said the woman had apparently been raped.

Bloodhounds followed a trail from the woman's home to a Negro house two miles away where officers arrested the two Negro men about 3:30 Friday morning. Both Negroes live near Durant.

Sheriff Byrd said Drake admitted breaking in the home, and said Brown helped him. However, he denied criminally assaulting the woman. Brown denied breaking in the house.

8988

Suspect Held in $75,000 Bail

Herald Tribune p. 1
New York City p. 1
Mon. 12-5-55

Seized as Kidnap-Rapist In Pelham Bay Park Case

A burly stone cutter, accused of raping an eighteen-year-old college girl after kidnaping and tying her escort to a tree, was held in $75,000 bail yesterday by Magistrate Louis I. Kaplan in Bronx Magistrates Court.

The suspect, William Ferreria, twenty-five, of 125 S. Fourth Ave., Mount Vernon, N. Y., admitted the rape and kidnaping in a wooded section of Pelham Bay Park in the Bronx on Nov. 26, according to Detectives Thomas McLinskey and Dan Henry, of the Barkley Ave. station.

Crime Called Vicious

In setting bail of $50,000 for the kidnaping of Jerry Goldstein, nineteen, of 1534 E. 172d St., the Bronx, from a car parked on Shore Road, and $25,000 for rape, Magistrate Kaplan denounced the crime as a vicious one.

Ferreria's father, Patrick, who was in court, said sadly, "I wash my hands of you. If you did this bad thing, I clean my hands of you." William Ferreria is married and the father of a six-month-old son. His father later relented and told Magistrate Kaplan he would help his son obtain counsel, whereupon the case was adjourned for a hearing on Dec. 8.

Ferreria was taken into custody Saturday for questioning a second time. He was first picked up Wednesday on a tip from Pelham Manor police that he answered the description given by the victims. They had described him as about six feet tall, black haired, weighing more than 200 pounds (he weighs 222 pounds) and driving a two-door black sedan.

Because he wore a handkerchief over the lower part of his face during the attack, the victims could not identify him positively. Moreover, police learned that he drove a blue coupe, so he was released.

Later, police learned that the suspect owned a two-door black sedan, which was missing, and he was picked up again. He was questioned from 1 p. m. Saturday until 4 a. m. yesterday when, according to police, he admitted the crime after being confronted with discrepancies in his story. He still professed not to know the whereabouts of the black sedan, because, he said, he "blacked out" after taking the girl from his car back to her escort's.

Chappaqua Woman Attacked in Home

World-Telegram
Sun

Special to World-Telegram and Sun.

CHAPPAQUA, Dec. 14.—Hundreds of police throughout Westchester County were alerted today after a terror-stricken housewife reported she was raped and robbed in her home at noon.

A police alarm described the pistol-toting thug as a Negro 5 feet, 6 inches tall and weighing about 150 pounds. He was wearing a trench coat, leather cap and a green sweater or jacket, the housewife tearfully told cops.

Chappaqua police and those in neighboring communities began a hunt for the man after the woman, whose name was withheld, reported he had robbed her of $5 and raped her in the cellar of her home in the Seven Bridges section here.

S. C. Man Jailed On Rape Charge

Newst Observer

LENOIR, Sept. 14 (AP) — Fred Junior Price, 31-year-old Columbia, S. C., negro, today was held in the alleged attempted rape of a 20-year-old white woman while she slept in her bed.

Price was arrested by officers who found him hiding under a bed in the house where the alleged attack occurred. He had fled there from a neighboring dwelling where he had been herded by the woman, who was armed with a baseball bat, and her 16-year-old sister.

Price will be given a preliminary hearing at the next session of Caldwell County Recorder's Court.

Two Men Held In Rape Case

Newst Observer

SANFORD, Sept. 29—After hearing a 11-year-old Negro girl testify that Norman Wood, young Negro, had tried to rape her on Sept. [illegible] County Judge [illegible] Byerly found probable cause against the defendant and ordered him placed under $1,000 bond for trial in Superior Court.

Judge Byerly also found probable cause against John Henry Gilmore, another Negro, whom the girl accused of blocking her path when she tried to flee from Wood. Charged with aiding and abetting in the alleged rape attempt, Gilmore was placed under $500 bond.

The girl said she went to a friends house to pick up a pair of roller skates and encountered the two young men there. Wood threw her on the bed and tried to rape her, she said. Gilmore, she testified blocked the doorway when she tried to escape. The girl quoted him as teling Wood, "go ahead and do what you're going to do."

Rape Charge Filed Against Local Man

A 41-year-old Negro man here has been charged with raping an 11-year-old Negro girl.

Cleo Jackson of 409 Tucker Street was placed in Wake County Jail without privilege of bond after relatives of Virginia Spencer, 11, of 1[illegible] West Street, accused him of raping the child.

He allegedly went to the girl's home Saturday afternoon and assaulted her in the backyard, police said. The girl was brought to the police station by her grandmother and officers summoned a welfare worker who took her to St. Agnes Hospital for examination.

Officers said yesterday that a full medical report had not been received by them. Dr. D. M. Forester, the examining physician, is listed as a State's witness in the case.

A preliminary hearing for Jackson has been set for City Court this morning.

Columbus Youth Receives Prison Term In Rape Attempt Case

Newark Observer

WHITEVILLE, Oct. 12 — A 19-year-old farmyouth was sentenced to serve from seven to 10 years in the State Prison today in Superior Court here on a charge of assault with intent to commit rape.

Garland Buffkin, whose home is near Tabor City, had been in custody since August 31 when he was charged with rape. To this charge he had pleaded not guilty, but today pleaded guilty to the lesser charge.

Aura 10-13-55

The girl involved, Sylvia Gore, also of near Tabor City, took the stand when the trial got under way this morning. She told the court that she is 15, and that she had had about four dates with Buffkin before the night of the assault.

She testified that during the assault, she screamed and beat Buffkin about the back and face. With tears streaming down her face, the girl, dressed in a neat gray dress with a high collar, and wearing black flat shoes, told how Buffkin offered her money if she would not tell her parents. She also testified that he threatened to "slap hell out of her" if she didn't permit him to carry out the act.

Marion N.C.

She told the court the attack took place on the front seat of Buffkin's automobile.

District Attorney John J. Burney then put on the stand the girl's father, Ralph Gore, who testified as to the story told by his daughter when she came home that night.

On cross examination by Defense Attorney J. K. Powell, Gore testified that he had permitted his daughter to go out with Buffkin and at no time had tried to stop her. He testified that she started dating when she was still only 14 years old.

Buffkin took the stand and denied that an act of rape took place. He testified that he and the girl had done a great deal of necking and petting in his automobile during the four dates they had had.

He testified that on the night of August 30 he and the girl twice engaged in sexual relations while parked in two places on a lonely road.

The State rested the case after putting Sheriff J. R. Pridgen on the stand. Pridgen told the court that when he questioned Buffkin the boy did not tell of having relations with the girl twice. He said the boy had told him he didn't want to talk further until he could see a lawyer.

The defense put on two witnesses who testified that Buffkin's character in his community was good. The defense also put on the stand Roy Fowler who testified that he had seen the Gore girl lying on the back seat of a car with a boy at a drive-in theater sometime before she filed the charges against Buffkin.

Judge Clifton L. Moore told the District Solicitor that he was wise in accepting the lesser plea because a jury "probably would have acquitted Buffkin."

"I never heard of such foolishness," said Judge Moore. "The girl's father admitted that his daughter was bathed before she was taken to the doctor for a medical examination. And no part of her clothing was brought to this court as evidence. And the evidence shows that there was no blood on the boy's clothing. Such foolishness."

Before sentencing Buffkin, Judge Moore said, "If this boy and girl really loved each other, I'd let them get married and wouldn't send him to prison. I have a daughter and a son the same ages. But, I have no choice. I'll have to sentence him."

8990

Girls Cry "Rape" Following Party

A drinking party that did not end like it was planned, came to light when the sheriff's office was notified Monday of a disturbance at 4241 N. E. 18th street.

On the way to the trouble spot, and in the immediate neighborhood, deputy sheriffs Brown and Bink discovered two men sitting beside the road, near or about 4251 N. E. 18th street. They became suspicious and arrested both of the men.

Driving back to 4241 they were surprised to observe two young girls ,who rushed out of the house and accused the two arrested men of having attempted to rape them in the home, and that they had been beating them and attempting to compel them to have improper relationships with them.

Another fellow who appeared on the scene, Charlie Johnson, is said by the girls to have rescued them from Johnson and Baker, and they had put the men out of the house. All parties to the affair seemed to have been drinking, but Johnson and Baker seemed to be more intoxicated than the rest of the participants.

When the men were finally ejected from the house they vented their anger by throwing bricks through the windows of the home. Two windows on the north side were smashed.

The ejected men then turned their wrath upon Johnson's car which was parked near the residence. They pushed it over a steep embankment and broke out the windows with big rocks. Officers found Johnson's car keys under the front seat, while investigation the affairs.

8991

White Woman Blames 4 Negroes In Raping

Advertiser

MEMPHIS, Sept. 12 (AP)—County and city police joined in a hunt today for four Negroes accused of kidnaping and raping a 36-year-old white woman.

The woman, not identified by police, told the sheriff's office she was raped by the men early today after they had pulled her out of her escort's car and driven away with her in their own automobile.

The woman later turned up at a police station and told officers the Negroes had raped her on the back seat of their car and then threw her out and drove off.

FIFTH NEGRO SEIZED IN SHELBY ASSAULT

Confidential

Sixth Still Sought In Attack On White Woman

Appeal 9-16

ARRESTED IN CHICAGO

The fifth of six Negroes accused in the Sept. 12 criminal assault of a 36-year-old white Shelby County housewife has been arrested in Chicago, the FBI's Memphis office reported yesterday.

Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation took 21-year-old Leotha Wilson of Memphis into custody Wednesday night on a warrant charging unlawful flight across a state line to avoid prosecution on a charge of rape.

Extradition Papers Sent

Sheriff E. H. Reeves said extradition papers were sent to Chicago yesterday for Wilson's return.

A Shelby County Grand Jury indicted Wilson and five other young Negroes last Friday on charges of rape and assault to murder.

Held in jail here without bond are Robert Wright, 15, of 789 Nonconnah; Thurman Coleman, 16, of 1447 Horace; James Tidwell, 20, of 24 West Colorado, and Dennis Mabry, 20, of 748 Nonconnah.

A sixth Negro implicated in the incident on a lonely secondary road during an early morning hour is still at large.

Investigators said Wilson was in the group which jerked the blond-haired woman from the car of her boy friend and criminally assaulted her. The woman said they attacked her eight times before they pushed her from their car.

Boy Friend Threatened

According to a statement given to investigators by one Negro, the boy friend was advised not to resist by Tidwell, who said:

"One of our boys whistled at a white woman in Mississippi and they killed him. You had better get going." (He had reference to the recent kidnap-slaying of Emmett Till, 14-year-old Chicagoan, at Money, Miss.).

The assault to murder charge was added against the six after the boy friend said one Negro hit him with his fist and later with a brick.

5 Negroes Admit Gang Rape Charge

Advertiser

Montgomery Ala

MEMPHIS, Nov. 14 (AP) — Five Negroes pleaded guilty today to gang raping a white woman. Three were sentenced to 99 years and the other two, both minors, got 10 years.

Dec 11-15-55

The guilty pleas were entered just before the five were to go on trial. The state had said it would ask the death penalty.

Sentenced to 99 years in the state penitentiary were James Tidwell, 20; Leotha Wilson, 21, and Dennis Mabry, 21. Robert Wright, 14, and Thurman Coleman, 16, will begin their 10-year sentences in the State Training School for Negroes. A court spokesman said they would probably be transferred to the penitentiary when they become 17.

NEGRO FACES CHARGE ON ATTACK ATTEMPTS

Appeal

Suspect Held For Threats Against White Women

Wed. 11-30-55

A 35-year-old Negro described by police as "a very dangerous man" has been held to the state in City Court on a charge of attempted criminal assault.

Robert Flowers, 35, of 844 Dallas, was arrested Friday night by Patrolmen M. F. Shannon and K. A. Turner after he frightened several white women near Katz Drug Store at Airways and Lamar.

Memphis Tenn.

Vice Squad Capt. W. P. Huston said Flowers bumped into one woman who was standing in front of the store, then walked away, "grabbing at every white woman he saw."

Captain Huston said Flowers confronted two young girls as they walked from a store and chased them until they ran back inside.

Flowers was fined $204 in City Court last May for making advances toward a white woman, the officer said. The case was handled by Lt. G. R. Churchill and Lt. E. H. Harrison.

Woman Robbed, Raped; Two Held

HOUSTON—A 27-year old Third Ward woman, Friday morning identified 24-year-old Bobby Eugene Bryant and Frank A. Sibley, 23, as the two men who robbed her of $27 after raping her near the Old Mainstreet Road around 11:30 Wednesday night.

Officers arrested Bryant about 1:05 a. m. Friday as he drove in the 500 block of Louisiana after he fitted the description given by the woman. They found a long bladed knife in the front seat of the car and the woman's girdle in the glove compartment. The rape victim also identified the girdle as hers by a supporter that was missing.

Later officers arrested Sibley, who lives at the same address as Bryant.

Byrant denied attacking the woman saying that he had taken Hillary Jefferson, his alleged half brother, home at Andrews and Buckner then returned home himself. Mr. Jefferson told officers that when the accused man took him home, Mr. Sibley was also in the car.

The woman said she was waiting for a bus in the 1000 block of Main when the two men drove up and asked if she wanted to ride. She said she thought it was someone she knew and stepped up to the car but upon seeing that she did not know the occupants, she stepped back.

She asserted that one of the men got out of the car and pulled a knife on her and forced her into the car. According to statements, they drove to the Old Main Street Road and parked, where both men assaulted her, then took the money from her purse.

The victim said one of the men had hit her on the head and twisted her thumb, then both of the men threw her on the back seat and disrobed her.

The men drove back to Southmore and Huthchins and parked with the lights off and let her out of the car.

The attacked woman then walked home and called police.

Sibley admitted having sex relations with the woman after she identified him in a showup of six men Friday afternoon, but said he did not threaten her, according to reports.

When Bryant was apprehended by police, he reportedly was attempting to get another woman into his car.

Both men have previous records.

Sibley, a two time loser, was once sentenced to the state pen for forgery and also the Federal Reformatory for theft in service.

Byrant received a 3-year sentence to the state penitentiary on a felony theft. He was also convicted for theft of postal money orders in Ohio, records showed.

A red handle knife which officers found on Sibley's person was also identified by the woman.

Gets 8 Years For Rape Of Hosp. Patient

DALLAS — Simon Simpson, 55, of 1104½ Comal Street, was found guilty of raping a 16-year-old patient at Parkland Hospital, and assessed an eight years sentence in the penitentiary by a criminal jury, Thursday night.

The offense is alleged to have occurred when Simpson, then an olderly at the hospital, entered the girl's room to administer to her needs.

State Prosecutors, Assistant District Attorneys William F. Alexander and Harvey Lindsley, asked the jury to impose 99 years or life imprisonment as proper pumishment for the crime. Attorney W. R. Session, Defense counsel, pleaded for a suspended sentence.

Ten fact and character witnesses, including the defendant and victim, gave conflicting testimonies of the offense, which reportedly occurred in the patient's room last October 9th.

The two-day trial was heard in Judge Harold Wright's Court.

State Prosecutors waged a fierce battle in the courtroom in an effort to get a stiff sentence for the defendant, while Defense Attorney Session repeatedly said his client was innocent.

The State called as its first witness, Homicide Detective, M. K. Tucker, who related the story of the arrest of Simpson, and said that he(Simpson) signed a voluntary statement admitting the crime. The statement was presented in evidence as State exhibit No. 1, over the objections raised by defense counsel.

Dr. E. R. Halton, Jr., Resident Physician at Parkland Memorial Hospital, and who was directly responsible for the care of patients, was the next State witness. He testified that the victim suffered from a disease that caused disintegration of connecting tissues of the body, affecting every organ in the body, and said it is a disease with no known cure. The Doctor said the symptons of the disease is a very high temperature and is very painful. He said the patient could not move by her own power, at the time of the assault. Upon cross examination, Dr. Halton said he personally examined the girl.

The victim took the stand, Thursday morning. The girl, weakened by the incurable disease, testified on direct and cross-examination for two hours. She related how Simpson, then an orderly, came into her room while she was alone, and under the pretense of relieving her high temperature, assaulted her. Upon cross-examination, the defense lawyer, with a loud angry voice, yelled accusations at her, and time after time questioned, "isn't it a fact that you did etc..", to which she answered "no, no, no!"

The girl, still weak seemed to begin to suffer pain and was taken home by her mother, following her mother's testimony.

Mrs. Justice, Assistant Director of Nurses, and who is in charge of nursing service, said on the witness stand, after repeated objections of the defense counsel, "The hospital's policy is that male personnel are not allowed in the room of female patients unless they are accompanied by a nurse". She further stated that she had discussed this rule with Simpson prior to the date of the assault.

SIMPSON'S TESTIMONY

Simon Simpson took the witness stand in his own defense, Thursday afternoon. He testified approximately three hours, giving his version of the offense. Simpson stated the victim approached him with the subject of social relationship, when he went into her room. He said she told him that she wanted to do something for him as he had been so nice to her. He said as he was attempting to carry out the girl's request, he was called to perform another duty.

Excerpts of the signed statement were read to him by the defense attorney, which he denied. He said he went into the girl's room seven or eight times for the purpose of changing alcohol sponges, but denied any physical contact with her body.

Upon cross examination he became confused and gave a conflicting story. This time he admitted entering the nude patient's room four times, turning her over and pulling her to the edge of the bed. He also admitted he assaulted her and that the statement that he signed was true.

When the Prosecution passed him to his counsel, he was questioned again about the statement, and this time he denied the statement.

Girl, 15, Raped At Knife Point; Rapist Caught

HOUSTON — A fifteen-year-old girl and her 20 year-old boy friend were held up at the point of knife by a man identified as Robert Taylor, 26, 71910 Polk, early Monday morning, who robbed them of their billfolds and forced the young man to lie on his face while he raped the girl, according to records.

According to the records, the officers, who were called by a woman who saw them on her porch in the 2900 block of Paige, caught the man molesting the girl. Mr Taylor was arrested and filed on for rape and two cases of robbery.

The teenager when contacted by an Informer reporter said they were returning from a show when the man stopped them and she declined to discuss the incident further, stating, "she didn't care to talk about it."

But in the Crime Prevention office in a written signed statement, the girl alleged that she and her boy friend were walking in the 2800 block of Paige when a man walked up to them and held a knife on then and threatened to kill them if they made any noise. He then led them between some houses and attempted to have sex relations with the girl in the 2800 block of Tuam but the people heard a noise on the porch and turned on their porch light and hollered for them to get off the porch. Then she claimed the man went around the corner to the 2900 block of Paige where the act was committed. She said he took both of their billfolds.

The woman who lived at the Paige address was contacted by an Informer reporter and said she was awakened by the noise on her front porch and when she looked through the window and saw the trio, she went out the back way and to a neighbor's to call the police.

The mother of the young girl was away from home and could not be reached for comment.

An Informer reporter was unable to interview Mr Taylor as he was being held incommunicado for investigation by the Burglary and Theft department.

NAACP Urges Caution In Probe Of Alleged Rape Case

HOUSTON—Extreme caution was urged of Police Chief Jack Heard, in the investigation of reports that a white woman had been criminally attacked Friday night by a Negro.

The request was made by Mrs C V Adair, executive secretary of the local branch NAACP in a wire to the police chief early Saturday morning. The wire requested Mr Heard to personally "know that the right person is picked up; that no confession be taken under duress and that the woman's story be thoroughly sifted for facts."

In a later statement to The Informer, Mrs Adair said that she sent the wire because in "so many instances Negro men have reported that they were beaten into confessing crimes like this that they did not commit."

Mrs Adair pointed out that when racial issues are involved in court decisions, such as the recent Supreme Court decisions, many false reports of raping of white women by Negro men begin cropping up, some of which are proven false and others, based on circumstantial evidence, end with tragic results.

According to the report, the woman told police an hour after the alleged attack, that her husband was at work, her daughter was visiting the daughter's grandparents and she was alone when a Negro entered the house and attacked her. The reason she gave for waiting so long to call police was that she fainted during a struggle with her attacker. The struggle was reported by police to have left the woman's house in shambles. A next door neighbor where the woman finally went to call officers was reported not to have heard any commotion.

Local White Woman Lies About Rape

HOUSTON— After trying to convince Homicide detectives for several hours that she had been criminally assaulted by a Negro, a 33-year-old white housewife, said to be the very nervous type, finally admitted that she had made up the story because she was afraid of being home alone, police records revealed here Tuesday. All evidence completely shattered her strange story.

According to the report Mrs Carolyn Warner, of [illegible] told Lt Doss and detective F. E. Melder that she was at home in bed around 11:00 p m Tuesday when she heard some one run up the outside steps leading to her apartment and knock on her door.

She reportedly opened the door (the screen door was hooked) and saw a Negro who demanded that she let him in or be killed, as he flashed a knife, the report showed. According to records, the woman said she let the stranger in and backed into the bedroom where he forced her to submit to him,, then told her he would kill her if she "called the cops."

She straightened out the bed, her story continued, then lay on a hot pad for about 25 or 30 minutes. She became frightened and ran down the streets where she saw a 16-year-old boy walking a dog, reports disclosed, and told him what had happened. She then went to a neighbor's house and called her husband on his job, then notified police, records showed.

According to the report, Mrs Warner first told the officers that her alleged attacker had a mustache but later said she was not sure. Also the woman reportedly could give only a vague description of the supposed rapist.

When the officers asked pressing questions as to why she could not give a clearer description of the man when she said she had stood face to face with him at the door with the light on, records revealed, Mrs Warner changed her story saying that the man had jumped inside, grabbed her around the neck, placed his hand over her mouth, turned off the light and forced her to the bed, it was reported.

The police report further disclosed that Mrs Warner was taken to Jefferson Davis hospital and examined two times by a physician for evidence of assault. Both reports were negative. The doctor was said to have been unable to find signs of violence (bruises or abrasions) about the woman's body.

Carl Warner, the woman's husband, who is an employee for Mission Manufacturing Company, according to records, reportedly told officers that his wife has been highly nervous during the past year.

The officers decided next on a polygraph test.

Finally at 2:10 a m Wednesday after all evidence had shattered the woman's story, she admitted that the whole thing was a product of her imagination, the police report concluded. Mrs Warner allegedly explained that she has been very nervous recently and especially when she is at home alone.

Feared Criminal Assault

HOUSTON—A frightened nine-year-old girl jumped from a second story window of a two-story apartment at 2216 Barbee Saturday afternoon in what she alleged was was an effort to escape the clutches of a man trying to criminally assault her.

Charles Edward Mitchell, 29, the man the girl accused of attempting to force her to have relations with him, was charged in Judge W C Ragan's court with molesting a minor. Mr Mitchell, from whose apartment window the girl allegedly jumped, denied seeing the girl in his quarters.

The child said she was over to

Continued From Page One

her grandmother's house when Mr Mitchell came over and asked her aunt if she wanted some beer. She said her aunt said she did and her grandmother told the man to bring her a pint of ice cream.

When Mr Mitchell left, the girl said, he took her aunt's baby and the grandmother told her to go along to hold the baby. She said the man drove to his apartment and they went upstairs. The girl stated that before they went upstairs the man told her that his wife was at home.

She said she looked for Mr Mitchell's wife but did not see her in the apartment. She said she went into a bedroom and the man told her to lie down on the bed and she said she did not want to do so. He removed some of her clothing, she said, and about that time, the baby began crying and Mr Mitchell went to see about it.

It was then that she ran in another room and got in the window. She said Mr Mitchell grabbed her to pull her out of the window but a lady walked up.

Miss Thelma Carrington, 20, who lives next door at 2218 Barbee, said when she saw the girl in the window, she told her to be careful not to fall but the girl told her she was going to jump because a man inside was 'fixing to get her because she wouldn't do what he asked."

She said the girl asked her to catch her. Miss Carrington said she told her she could not catch her but the child jumped anyway and ran to her. She said she took the girl around the corner and called police. The man came up and tried to get the girl, saying he had to take her home after they picked up the baby, Miss Carrington said, but she refused to let him do so. She said he drove back to the apartment and they walked. Just as they got there, the police drove up.

"Somebody must be trying to frame me," Mr Mitchell said in city jail Monday. "I never laid a hand on that girl and I can't understand why she would say a thing like that. Why would I tell her my wife was at home when I knew she was at work?" he added.

Mr Mitchell said the girls aunt had phoned him to come over to her house because she wanted him to take her and some other relatives out of town. He said when he got there, she asked him to go get her some beer and the grandmother said she wanted the ice cream.

He declared that he only drove to his apartment to get a clean shirt to wear if he was going to take them out of town. He said as he was going up to his apartment, he noticed the girl following him with the baby. While in the apartment, he said, the baby started crying and he went to see what was the matter.

"I didn't see 'Dutchie' (He said that is what he calls the little girl, so I called her. When she didn't answer. I thought she was playing 'hide and seek'," he asserted.

Mr Mitchell said he went down stairs and left the baby with a neighbor then went to look for the girl. "'I found her with the other woman at a phone booth." He said the girl would not let him approach her and told him "you know what you tried to make me do." He said he did not know what she was talking about.

Suspect Arrested In Attack On YW Guest

Afro-American Sat. 4.2.55 p.3

NORFOLK, Va. — Charles J. (Charlie Boy) Holmes, who admitted carnal knowledge of Miss Lila Lee Faulk, guest at the YWCA, March 11, is being held under $5,000 bond on criminal attack and robbery charges.

In addition to Holmes, three other persons are being held under $1,000 bonds as material witnesses and a fourth, alleged companion of Holmes, known only as "Dutch," is being sought as an accomplice.

Although Holmes admitted intimacies with the 22-year-old YWCA guest, according to police, he denies that his attentions were forced upon her.

27h(1)

MISS FAULK told police that she was abducted from her third-floor room in the YWCA on Park Ave. during the night of March 11, carried to a secluded spot in the county and held until early Saturday morning.

A wristwatch that Miss Faulk says she gave Holmes to set her free after the men had returned her to the city, Charlie Boy had gotten out of the car and Holmes had attacked her for the third time, was found Monday in a Church St. pawnshop.

* * *

SHE TOLD THE COURT that, in addition to the watch, Holmes also took $5 from her. Following the testimony in police court, Judge Savory E. Amato certified the case to the April grand jury.

Taken out of the YW, Miss Faulk said, Holmes told her that he and his partner were member of the "Stone Killers" gang and threatened to kill her if she attempted any wild break while accompanying them.

Det. Sgt. E. M. Towe said Miss Faulk's room in the Y was in "shambles" and that bloody impressions of her hand were found on the wall.

* * *

HER NIGHTGOWN had been ripped off when each of the men criminally attacked the hapless young woman in her room before taking her out of the YWCA, the sergeant said.

Sgt. L. L. Jones of the homicide bureau said Holmes and his accomplice had first sought to open a safe on the first floor of the Y and had abandoned plans to throw the safe out through a window in the hope on being able to open it.

They then conducted a search of the Y building, according to Sergeant Jones, in the process of which they entered Miss Faulk's room.

* * *

MISS FAULK said that she awoke to find the two men standing in her room. When she started to cry out, one of them put a knife to her throat and warned her to keep quiet.

"They both attacked me before they took me out of the room," the victim testified.

The pair then gave her some clothing and ordered her to get dressed, Miss Faulk said, then took her downstairs to her car.

"Starting of the motor awakened one of the girls in the building," she said, "but one of the men forced me to say that I would be right back."

* * *

THEY DROVE HER to a wooded area in Princess Anne County "near some quonset houses," Miss Faulk said, where "they again attacked me and I was held until early Saturday morning, March 12."

"When they brought me back into Norfolk, the one called Dutch got out. Then Charlie Boy took me over to an apparently empty house on Goff St., where he raped me again," she testified.

She said she gave Holmes her watch to set her free and at approximately 11 a.m. she drove the car back to the YW.

* * *

PRIOR TO HER APPOINTMENT as a home consultant here, Miss Faulk, a native of Fairmont, N.C., and Hampton Institute graduate (home ec major), was home economics teacher in Nottingham High School, Accomac.

Holmes was picked up by police March 19 on a charge of assault and robbery and assault and rape. He was identified in police court by Miss Faulk as one of the attackers.

"Dutch" Talks On "Y" Rape

Journal and Guide

By Art Sears Jr.

A second suspect, who surrendered and signed a statement at Police headquarters admitting his part in the rape and robbery of a Hampton Institute graduate, also implicating a man in custody, waived preliminary hearing in Police court on Thursday morning and was jailed in lieu of $5,000 bond.

He is Midgete R. Cowan, 20, also known as "Dutch" of 1036 Bottimore street, who was charged wtih rape and assault and robbery. He surrendered to police late Wednesday night.

27h(1)

SGT. L. L. Jones, of the Homicide bureau said Cowan gave him a full statement verifying everything that Miss Lila Lee Faulk had testified to in a preliminary hearing on Monday for Charles James Holmes, also being held on $5,000 bond. Both cases are scheduled to go before the grand jury on April 4.

POLICE SAID that in addition to his confession, Cowan re-enacted the crime in the presence of police and several YWCA officials.

Cowan's surrender marked the end to nearly two weeks of intensive police work which resulted in taking Holmes into custody on March 19.

A $5,000 bond was set for



CHARLES JAMES HOLMES
Denies Rape

Charles James Holmes, who admitted to police having sexual relations with Miss Lila Lee Faulk, but denied raping her, and a $1,000 bond was set for three material witnesses who are being held by police.

* * *

RECOVERED from a Church street loan office was a wristwatch which Miss Faulk said she gave to Holmes to set her free. Miss Faulk testified that Holmes also took $5 of her money.

* * *

MISS FAULK said Holmes told her that he and his partner, known as "Dutch" were



MIDGETE R. COWAN
Admits Rape

members of the "Stone Killers" gang and that if she tried any wild break while accompanying them, she would be killed.

* * *

SGT. L. L. JONES, of the homicide bureau said Holmes and his accomplice had first tried to open a safe located on the first floor of the "Y" and had suggested throwing it out a window in hopes of opening it.

Then they conducted a search of the "Y", Sgt. Jones said, finally coming upon Miss Faulk's room.

27-h-(1) Va

MISS FAULK said she awakened with the two men standing in her room. When she started to cry out, one stuck a knife to her throat and warned her to keep quiet. "They both raped me before they took me out of the room," she said.

* * *

THE TWO men then gave her some clothes and ordered her to dress Miss Faulk said. Then they took her down to her car. "The start of the motor awakened one of the girls in the building," Miss Faulk explained, "and one of the men forced me to say that I would be right back."

They drove Miss Faulk to a wooded area in Princess Anne county, "near some abandoned quonset houses," she stated. "They raped me there again and I was held until early Saturday morning, March 12.

* * *

WHEN THEY brought me back into Norfolk, the one called 'Dutch' got out. Then 'Charlie Boy' (Holmes) took me over to an apparently empty house on Goff street where he raped me again," she said.

Miss Faulk gave Holmes her watch there to set her free and at approximately 11 a. m., she drove the car back to the "Y", she stated.

Sgt. E. M. Towe, of the detective bureau, said Miss Faulk's third floor room at the YWCA was in "shambles" and that bloody impressions of her hand were found on the wall. Her nightgown had been ripped off her body when she was raped by each man before they took her out of the "Y", the sergeant said.

A native of Fairmont, N. C., she is a graduate of Hampton Institute where she majored in home economics. Prior to her appointment as a home consultant, she was home economics instructor at the Mary Nottingham Smith high school in Accomac, Virginia.

• • •

HOLMES WAS picked up at 5 a. m. Saturday morning, March 19 and charged with assault and rape, assault and robbery.

Arresting and investigating officers were Sergeants L. L. Jones, E. M. Towe, L. L. Buskey and Detective J. F. McGowal.

She also loses $500 cash, jewels

- Forced way into room at Slaughter's
- Attacked 2nd time within 45 minutes

RICHMOND

A young Norfolk matron was criminally assaulted and robbed of $530 in jewelry and cash by a man who forced his way into her room shortly after she registered at Slaughter's Hotel, police reported Tuesday.

The matron, Mrs. Lorraine Miller of 869 Asbury Ave., Norfolk, said the man who had "leered" at her in the lobby, warned her not to cry out and placed a pillow over her face as he forced his attentions on her.

The alleged attack took place in Room 12 on the third floor of the hotel, where Mrs. Miller, whose husband is serving overseas in the Navy, had planned to spend the night before visiting her sister in Washington.

• • •

DET. SGT. FRANK S. Randolph and Det. John W. Vann are handling the investigation. They quoted Mrs. Miller as saying the intruder took one ring valued at $300; another worth $100; a watch worth $100 and $30 in currency.

The incident occurred at 1:15 a.m. Police were first notified at 2:15 a.m. when Patrolmen R. J. Davis and C. A. Dickens, on duty at the Hippodrome Theatre, where a midnight show was in progress, were told that woman had been attacked.

Officer Davis told the AFRO that Sonny Till, manager and singer in The Orioles Quartet, reported the alleged attack. Officers Davis and Dickens went across the street to the hotel and Dickens went upstairs to get a report from the victim.

• • •

MRS. MILLER told police that she was en route to Washington by car and stopped at the hotel overnight. She said she had planned to see a friend who is a member of the Orioles singing aggregation which was appearing on the midnight show.

She added that the man was in the hotel lobby when she registered and that when he followed her to the third floor, she thought he was a guest at the hotel.

The attractive, auburn-haired matron said the man pretended to be going into another room, but forced his way into her room before she could close the door.

Mrs. Miller was carried to St. Philip Hospital by members of the Orioles Quartet and later checked out of the hotel. She said she was returning to Norfolk by car. The AFRO attempted to reach her by telephone at the Norfolk address on Tuesday but was unsuccessful.

ARREST IS ORDERED ON ASSAULT CHARGE

Woman Tells Judge She Was Hypnotized By Friend

MOBILE, May 29.—(AP)—Police Judge William Bekurs said Saturday he ordered the arrest of a married salesman for criminally assaulting a young mother while she was hypnotized.

A preliminary hearing for Jesse Overton Jr., 25, was set for Tuesday.

Judge Bekurs said he issued the warrant only after seeing the husband of the 17-year-old woman put her in a trance in which she could feel no pain and in which she gave a detailed account of the alleged assault.

The husband, an airman, had told Detective Capt. Talley Collings Friday that the first he and his wife knew of the assault was Thursday, when he hypnotized her and she told him about it.

Captain Rollings said Overton signed a statement admitting he had relations with the pretty teenager Wednesday while her husband was at work. He said it was not the first time she had submitted to him while he had her in a trance.

The husband—also an amateur hypnotist—said he hypnotized his wife the following day to rest her from the strain of caring for their 4-month-old baby.

He said she then told him that Overton, a friend of the family, had put her in a trance, told her he was her husband and had relations with her.

Overton said he was born at Rutherford, Tenn., and moved to Memphis while a baby. He lived there 15 years. He said he attended Bruce grammar school, Bellevue junior high and Central High.

He said he had been practicing hypnotism for about 10 years, and had once hypnotized about 12 Navy men and had them swab the decks of a ship.

When they came out of the trance they were more refreshed than when they started to work," he said.

Mistreatment Of Race Girl Made Known

A young white building construction worker, charged with allegedly criminally attacking a nine-year-old Powderly girl, was confined in County Jail this week, on a suspicion of rape, police said.

LURED GIRL INSIDE OF SCHOOL

The suspect is identified as James W. Vinzant, 26, white, of Jemison, Ala., who is accused of luring the young girl into the Powderly Grammar School around four p. m. Tuesday, and then allegedly forcing his desires upon the victim, Officers M. Michael and J. W. Settle said.

Detectives Robert A. MacMurdo and Cecil B. Golden said that Vinzant, the suspect, was one of several men doing construction and repair work on the school during the off-school season. The child-victim's home is on the other side of the street opposite of the school building, police said.

Officers Michael and Settle quoted witnesses as saying that Vinzant reportedly called the child's seven-year-old brother over to the school and sent him back home to tell his young sister that he had "something" for her and wanted her to come for it.

Police said the young girl went to the school. They said Vinzant allegedly led the young girl into the school and locked the door. Some of the other construction workers said they missed Vinzant and went to look for him and found the school's doors locked.

The child's mother, Mrs. Lula Mae McKee, of 2001 Southwest Snavely Avenue, Powderly, said she became alarmed and rushed to the school, and unable to locate her child, she called police.

Detectives MacMurdo and Golden said that Officers Michael and Settle arrived on the scene, forced their way into the school and reportedly caught Vinzant in a compromised position.

6 Men Charged On Assault Rap

Assault to ravish charges were filed against six men yesterday—including two from Montgomery—by a 43-year-old Montgomery women, city police said yesterday.

Mrs. Lillie S. Keel, 416 Jefferson St., placed charges against Wylee Meeks, 33, 1672 Crouson St., and Robert Meeks, 19, 301 Jefferson St., and four men from Prattville. They were listed as James Earl Atchinson, Leon and Clarence Freeman, and Wilmett Meeks.

Mrs. Keel told police the six men were among nine who forced her into their car early Monday morning at Rose Garnett's Place at Pickett Springs and drover her into Elmore county.

When the car was involved in a wreck in Elmore county, Mrs. Keel said she escaped in the confusion.

Gets Five Years On Assault Charge

JASPER, Ala.— (ANP)— James Aldridge, 24-year-old white man has been sentenced to five years in prison for criminally assaulting a Negro school teacher.

The trial of Charles Brom, 22, charged as Aldridge's companion in the attack, is underway.

Sheriff Howard Turner said the incident which brought about the arrest of the two men occurred last April 9. He said they posed as taxi drivers and picked up the teacher about 2:30 a.m.

She had gotten off the bus and was returning home to Jasper for the weekend from a school where she was teaching in South Alabama.

The sheriff said the two men drove the teacher to a lonely road where they forced her to submit to acts of sexual perversion.

Talladega man held, accused of attack

TALLADEGA, Ala., Aug. 9 — A Talladega man was charged yesterday with criminally attacking a 19-year-old Talladega housewife.

Frank Ferugson, 31, was being held without bond in Talladega County Jail, Sheriff John Robinson said.

Ferguson was arrested at his home Sunday after the victim charged he attacked her in the Talladega National Forest Sunday.

Sheriff Robinson said Ferguson was under $5000 bond on charges he attacked another woman here recently.

First of pair accused in attack on Negro woman convicted

JASPER, Ala., Aug. 12—One of two Jasper men, indicted on charges of criminally attacking a Negro woman school teacher at Jasper has been found guilty by a Circuit Court jury and punishment set at five years in prison.

Trial of the other man indicted was being conducted today.

James Aldridge, 24, was convicted yesterday by the jury which got the case late Wednesday, according to Deputy Sheriff L. H. Summerlin.

Charles Brom, 23, indicted along with Aldridge, was brought to trial yesterday and his trial was being continued today. Mr. Summerlin said this case probably will end before night.

SHERIFF HOWARD TURNER said the incident which brought about the arrest and indictment of the two men occurred last April 9. He said two men posed as taxi drivers and picked up the teacher about 2:30 a.m. She had gotten off a bus, returning home at Jasper for the weekend from a school where she was teaching in South Alabama.

The sheriff said the two men drove with the teacher to a lonely spot on Calumet-rd, where, she said, they compelled her to submit to sexual perversion.

Circuit Sol. James E. Wilson is prosecuting. Walker County Sol. Harvey Jackson is assisting.

The two men are being defended by Attys. T. K. Selman and Charles Tweedy. Selman is a state representative in the Alabama Legislature from Walker County.

Man is bound over in Tarrant attack

A Green Station man was bound over to the Grand Jury yesterday on a warrant charging him with assault with intent to rob or ravish a pretty Tarrant city blonde.

The young woman was the only witness to testify yesterday against Seth Clark, 24, Birmingham Rt. 6, who was bound over by County Judge G. C. Boner.

She told the court Clark followed her for two blocks after she got off a bus in Tarrant City. Near her house, she said, she was suddenly grabbed and thrown to the ground. She said the assailant clamped a hand over her mouth and warned he would kill her if she said anything.

She said the man told her he wanted her money, but fled when she managed to scream, attracting her father and mother.

Clark was arrested after a searching party found him hiding under a house in Tarrant City.

Youth Charged With Attack In Prattville

Advertiser Thurs. 9-29-55 P. 6-B

Special To The Advertiser

PRATTVILLE, Ala., Sept. 28—A 17-year old Robert E. Lee High School student of Montgomery is being held in the Autauga County Jail here on a charge of assault with intent to ravish, Sheriff Clyde White said.

The youth is charged in the attempted assault of a Prattville housewife at her home Tuesday morning, he said.

He was captured less than 20 minutes after the alleged attempt, White said, with the aid of city, county and state law enforcement offficers.

The victim of the attack said her assailant gained entrance to her home on the pretext of using the telephone. She said after he got into the house, he grabbed her. She screamed and scratched him, she told the sherriff, and he fled to an auto to escape.

White said the investigation of the case is continuing.

Boys Accused Of Detaining Teen-Age Girl

Mont. Herald Sat. 11-19-55 P. 7

ANNISTON, Nov. 18 (AP)—Sheriff Roy C. Snead today said two youths were jailed after they disappeared for a day with two teenage high school girls.

The officer said Ronald Earl Dunston, 19, was charged with criminal assault by one of the girls. Both he and Jimmy Evans, 18, are accused of holding or detaining a minor from her parents.

Snead said Dunston, 19, is being held without bond at the Calhoun County Jail while Evans was freed on $50 bond last night. Evans married the second girl, according to the officer.

The sheriff said the youths picked up the girls Wednesday after they left home to attend a county school. He said that when the girls failed to return home the parents obtained warrants accusing Dunston and Evans of detaining them.

When the girls came home, Snead said one signed a warrant charging Dunston with criminal assault.

The two boys were picked up yesterday when the Highway Patrol stopped Dunston on a reckless driving count.

Shapely Divorcee Found Beaten To Death in L.A.

Constitution Mon. 2-21-55

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 20 (AP)—An attractive divorcee, nude except for a nightgown pulled over her head, was found beaten to death in bed at her apartment last night.

Detectives said Mrs. Karil Rogers Graham, 39, had been raped and her head crushed by at least two blows with a heavy instrument.

The shapely dark-haired victim, a former beauty school, was found on the floor in the front room of her second-floor apartment.

ROOM RANSACKED

The death weapon was not found. The woman's purse was empty and the blood-spattered room was ransacked.

"If it wasn't a burglary, it certainly was made to look like it," said Chief of Detectives Thad Brown.

A bloody fingerprint was found on the inside front doorknob. The knob was sent to the police crime laboratory along with human hair found under one of Mrs. Graham's fingernails.

Police said they are seeking for questioning a former male friend of the victim. He at one time had been a hospital mental patient. Officers said he is not a suspect, however.

DIVORCEE

Detective Sgt. Charles Detrich said Mrs. Graham, who had lived in this apartment since November, was divorced five or six years ago from Beardsley Graham, a member of the engineering staff of Stanford Research Institute, Palo Alto, Calif.

Her mother is Mrs. Gladys Rogers, San Diego, Detrich said.

Police continued checking today on names and addresses in a small address book for possible clues. The book was near the purse. Lt. J. W. Buckley of the homicide division described the inquiry as "an elimination deal so far."

SCREAMS

A neighbor on the floor above told police she was awakened by a terrified scream at 5:15 a.m. yesterday.

The body was found last evening by James Lipson, apartment manager, when he noticed the door to Mrs. Graham's apartment was open.

Police said they questioned and released two men who said they dined with her the night before the slaying. They said they left the apartment at 12:30 a.m. yesterday after an 11 p.m. swimming party in the apartment building pool, officers reported.

Police said the victim's sister, Mrs. H. L. Manley of suburban Northridge, was unable to supply any leads.

Judge Hospitalizes Sailor After Assault on Girl, 17

A sailor who beat and raped a 17-year-old girl four hours after she agreed to go dancing with him following a dance meeting near her hotel was ordered to District General Hospital yesterday for a month of mental observance.

Mary Gott, one of 40 high school students visiting the Capital from Kennebunkport, Me., suffered a bloody nose, bruised mouth and knife wounds in the right shoulder and breast, police reported.

Her chance date, Seaman Apprentice Gerald A. Ball, 20, of Anacostia Naval Receiving Station, was arraigned in Municipal Court yesterday before Judge Armond Scott on a charge of simple assault.

Miss Gott, who told her story of the Tuesday night beating to a grand jury before returning to Kennebunkport, said the sailor made no attempt to molest her sexually.

She stated that she obtained permission from a chaperone to stay out until midnight after meeting Ball, who was wearing civilian clothes.

After a brief stop at a night club, the two went for a drive in Ball's car. Ball stopped the car when the muffler fell off and later pulled over at Shannon place and U sts. se. as the engine conked out.

Suddenly he started beating her about the face with his fists, Miss Gott said. Park Police Pvt. George M. Jones, who was in a nearby cruiser, said he heard screams, rushed to the scene and found Ball still beating the girl.

Jones said Ball told him he had "no idea" why he struck Miss Gott, who was treated at District General and Emergency Hospitals.

Woman Raped, Parolee Seized

A 48-year-old Washington woman was kicked, beaten and raped in a garage near her home early today and within a few minutes police arrested a paroled convict fleeing the scene, detectives reported.

The victim was walking her three pet cats when the attack occurred.

Precinct police said they had warned her on previous occasions about walking the cats in the neighborhood during late hours.

Charged with rape was Samuel F. Small, jr., 30, colored, of the 1900 block of Second street N.W.

The victim was admitted to District General Hospital for X-rays. Capt. Joseph W. Shimon said she suffered a possible fracture of the nose and had been kicked in the abdomen.

Detectives said the woman was walking her cats at 2 a.m. near her home in the 300 block of Eighth street S.E. when the suspect accosted her and dragged her into the garage.

Neighbors heard her screams and called police. Several cruisers were sent to the area, but the assailant had fled.

Mintues later Pvts. C. B. Chase and J. W. Troulx, spotted Small running in the 900 block of Independence avenue N.W.

Capt. Shimon said Small had blood on his clothing and body. The police captain said the suspect is on parole from a prison term for holdup and robbery.

Police said Small would face other recent attack victims in a special lineup at headquarters later today.

Nude Woman Found Beaten

A Burke (Va.) man was held under $30,000 bond on an attempted murder charge in Fairfax County today after a 43-year-old Washington woman was found nude and brutally beaten in woods near Burke last night.

The man, Melvin Mason Raines, 30, of Route 1, Burke, was arrested by Fairfax County police after they found his blood-stained automobile parked about a mile from the wooded area.

The woman was admitted to Alexandria Hospital with critical head wounds, managed to tell Fairfax County police the following account:

She met a man in a Washington bar and they went for a ride. They drove to a densely wooded section about 1½ miles east of Fairfax Park, not far from Springfield. There the man raped her, beat her with a claw hammer and robbed her.

The woman was discovered lying in the woods by Sam Arrington and his son Thomas, 19, around 8:30 p.m. Her torn clothing was beside her.

No weapon was found. Although the woman said she was beaten with a hammer, police thought a weapon like a tire iron might have been used because of the shape of six deep gashes on her head.

Police plan to confer with the Commonwealth attorney's office today about the possibility of placing other charges against Raines.

Charge of Assault By Boy Reduced

A charge of rape against a 14-year-old boy was reduced to assault yesterday in Juvenile Court.

His bond of $3,000 was cut to $1,000.

The attack took place on July 16 in a basement of an apartment house in the 5900 block of Blaine street N.E. Six other youths also have been charged. The girl was attacked so brutally she required major surgery.

Five of the youths are under $20,000 bond apiece and are awaiting grand jury action. The sixth boy merely was "found to have been involved" by the Juvenile Court. Judge Nadine Gallagher, substituting for vacationing Juvenile Court Judge Edith Cockrill yesterday, set the date of sentencing for the sixth boy for September 12.

8998

21-year-old wife of Florida airman assaulted and slain

PANAMA CITY, Fla., Jan. 19—(AP)—An assailant who apparently surprised Mrs. Lou Ellen Jones while she was washing dishes, raped and then strangled her to death during a rainstorm yesterday.

The 21-year-old wife of Air Force S. Sgt. Joseph R. Jones was also stabbed twice in the back, Sheriff M. J. Daffin said, but the wounds weren't deep enough to cause her death.

Sgt. Jones found the body lying across a bed when he returned from Tyndall Air Force Base. The couple's 3-year-old son, Curtis, told him Mrs. Jones was sleeping.

Part of an electric toaster cord was apparently used to strangle Mrs. Jones, the sheriff said, adding that overturned furniture and broken glass on the floor indicated she put up a struggle. Her rings were found near the kitchen sink, suggesting that she was washing dishes when attacked.

Daffin said neighbors reported seeing a stranger enter the house after Jones left for Tyndall in the morning.

Mrs. Jones was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Pittman, Long Beach, Calif. The family came here about nine months ago from El Reno, Okla.

last week on a parkway on St. Andrews Bay.

Sheriff Daffin said he asked Everett how he had avoided cutting his hand with the knife. He quoted the youth as saying he wrapped a handkerchief around it when he slashed the woman.

Everett, a native of Columbus, Ga., has a "Pachuco gang" symbol tattooed between the thumb and forefinger of his left hand, Daffin said. The mark is used by gangs of young hoodlums, mainly on the west coast.

Everett was released on parole last October after serving a federal term for automobile [illegible]

Slayer of Flori[illegible] matron tattooed with [illegible]achuco sign

PANAMA CITY, Fla., Jan. 31—(AP)—The mark of the Pachucho gangs has been found tattooed on the hand of a 20-year-old accused rape-slayer, according to Sheriff M. J. Daffin.

He said the symbol used by the gangs of young hoodlums was found between the thumb and forefinger of the left hand of George Lowell Everett.

The Dothan, Ala., federal parole violator Thursday admitted stabbing, strangling and raping Mrs. Lou Ellen Jones, 21-year-old Panama City housewife.

The Pachuco gangs are believed to have originated on the West Coast and usually are made up of Mexican-American toughs. Some youths have told officers commission of a serious crime is required for membership.

Everett told officers that he was surprised by Mrs. Jones while pilfering her home Jan. 18. He was quoted as confessing that he slugged her with a vase as she entered the house and then killed and raped her.

Officers are still looking for the length of electric cord with which Everett was quoted as saying he strangled the pretty wife of an Air Force sergeant.

The sheriff also revealed that F. L. Everett, Atlanta, Ga., father of the accused rape murderer, visited him yesterday at an "undisclosed prison."

"I would certainly not prevent any father from seeing his son under such circumstances," Daffin told a reporter.

Confessed Rape-Killer's Dad Urges Son To Tell Cops All

PANAMA CITY, Fla., Jan. 31 (AP)—Sheriff M. J. Daffin said today the father of a 20-year-old youth charged with the rape slaying of a young Panama City housewife has urged his son to tell officers "everything he knows" concerning the crime.

F. L. Everett, Atlanta automobile worker, visited his son, George Lowell Everett, in an undisclosed jail yesterday. He was accompanied by the sheriff.

Daffin announced last Thursday that young Everett, a federal parolee who was living in Dothan, Ala., had signed a 40-page statement admitting he stabbed, strangled and raped pretty Mrs. Lou Ellen Jones, 21, a former El Reno, Okla., high school band queen, in her home Jan. 18.

The [illegible] quoted Everett as saying he attacked the woman when she caught him rifling her home.

Officers still are hunting for an electric cord Everett said he used to strangle Mrs. Jones, wife of Air Force S. Sgt. Joseph Jones. The youth said he threw the cord into a trash can at a Panama City filling station.

A kitchen knife without a handle, which Everett said he used to stab Mrs. Jones, was found

8999

Youth Admits Rape-Slaying Of GI's Wife

Panama City Cops Given Confession By Young Parolee

PANAMA CITY, Fla., Jan. 27 (AP)—A conscience stricken youth with a police record dating back to when he was 11 told officers today he raped, stabbed and strangled a pretty Panama City mother who caught him rifling her home.

Sheriff M. J. Daffin said George Lowell Everett, Dothan, Ala., who won't be 20 until April, signed a statement detailing the slaying of Mrs. Lou Ellen Jones, 21, blond wife of an Air Force sergeant the morning of Jan. 18.

Paroled In October

Daffin said the youth was paroled last Oct. 20 on a federal conviction for automobile theft.

The officer said Everett was tracked down after an automobile stolen in Dothan was found abandoned in Mobile, Ala., 160 miles west of Panama City.

Everett told newsmen after he signed the statement: "My conscience has about run me crazy."

The youth, who is almost 6 feet and weighs an estimated 145, was taken to the Raiford (Fla.) state prison, near Jacksonville, in what Sheriff Daffin said, was a precautionary measure.

Facing Charges

The officer added that he would be charged with first degree murder.

Hundreds of persons had been questioned by law enforcement officers throughout this area since the nearly nude body of the pretty young woman was found by her husband, S. Sgt. Joseph R. Jones, when he returned home that Tuesday evening from duty at nearby Tyndall Air Force Base.

The couple's 2½-year-old son, Curtis, was found playing nearby, unharmed.

Mrs. Jones was a high school band queen at El Reno, Okla., in 1951. She and her husband had moved to Panama City from El Reno about nine months ago.

Details Given

Sheriff Daffin said Everett's statement gave these details:

He stole a car from Clifford E. Sloop, Dothan electrical contractor, to whom he had been paroled. Everett is a cousin of Sloop's wife.

He drove to Panama City Jan. 16, went to a movie ("There's No Business Like Show Business") and slept in the car in a vacant lot that night. Monday, Jan. 17, he drove about town. That night he parked the car near the Jones' modest duplex apartment.

Everett saw Mrs. Jones leave the house about 9 a.m. to take her neighbor, Mrs. G. D. Fox, wife

Blake Hansford, Tuscaloosa, and two brothers, Ray Horn of Luverne and Howard Horn, Florence.

Funeral announcements will be made by Turner's Funeral Home in Luverne.



Associated Press wirephoto
Mrs. Lou Ellen Jones

Wife, 21, Raped And Strangled

PANAM ACITY, Fla., Jan. 19 (AP).—An assailant who apparently surprised Mrs. Lou Ellen Jones while she was washing dishes attacked and strangled her to death during a rainstorm yesterday.

The twenty-one-year-old wife of Air Force S/Sgt. Joseph R. Jones was also stabbed twice in the back, Sheriff M. J. Daffin said, but the wounds were not deep enough to cause her death.

Sgt. Jones found the body lying across a bed when he returned from Tyndall Air Force Base. The couple's three-year-old son, Curtis, told him Mrs. Jones "was sleeping."

Part of an electric toaster cord was apparently used to strangle Mrs. Jones, who was raped, the sheriff said. He added that overturned furniture and broken glass on the floor indicated she put up a struggle. Her rings were found near the kitchen sink, suggesting that she was washing dishes when attacked.

Parolee Held in Slaying, Rape of Sergeant's Wife

PANAMA CITY, Fla., Jan. 27 (AP).—A Federal parolee who told officers "my conscience has about run me crazy" today confessed to the rape-slaying of the pretty wife of an Air Force sergeant, Sheriff M. J. Daffin said.

The officer said George Lowell Everett, 20, employe of a Dothan, Ala., electrical contractor, signed a statement admitting he stabbed, strangled and raped blonde Mrs. Lou Ellen Jones, 21, January 18 when she returned home unexpectedly while he was seeking to rifle the house.

The arrest capped one of the most intensive investigations ever conducted in this area. Officers, working around the clock, had questioned hundreds of persons.

The break came when Mobile, Ala., police found an abandoned automobile with a Panama City newspaper dated January 17 on a seat. The car was traced to Everett.

Everett, who served time in a Georgia correctional institution and is on parole for car theft, gave officers this account:

He stole a car from his employer and drove to Panama City January 16. On the morning of January 18, he saw Mrs. Jones leave her apartment and decided to break in with the intention of stealing money.

But Mrs. Jones returned in about 10 minutes with her son, Curtis, 2.

Everett hid behind a door, hit her on the head with a vase and dragged her unconscious into a bedroom.

The former convict said he went to the kitchen, cut an electric cord from a toaster, then stabbed the girl twice in the back and strangled her.

A coroner's jury reported the girl was raped, probably immediately after death.

Prisoner Jailed As Rapist Hangs Self in Clayton County

A 22-year-old carpenter jailed on a rape charge early Sunday morning in Clayton County hanged himself in his cell with a bed sheet, Clayton officers said.

Clayton County Police Chief Howard W. Smith said James Clifford Waters, Stockbridge Rte. 1, was found hanging in his cell about 5:45 Sunday morning by Deputy Sheriff Henry Roberts.

A coroner's inquest Sunday afternoon ruled the death suicide, Chief Smith added.

SECOND CHARGE

Waters, who was under bond on a rape charge in Henry County (at the time) was arrested about 3:30 Sunday morning on the complaint of an 18-year-old Clayton County girl.

Chief Smith said the girl told officers Waters, who knew her and her family, knocked out a front door pane, unlocked the door and entered the house about 3 a.m. Saturday morning. She was at home alone.

She said he attacked her twice and stayed at the house until about 9 a.m. Saturday morning. Once, the girl said, she slipped out of the house and started running but Waters caught her and hauled her back to the house.

NO DETAILS

Chief Smith knew no details of the Henry County case against Waters except that it "involved two girls and several boys."

Waters was placed in a cell with a drunken prisoner, Smith said. He sobered up and saw Waters hanging by his bunk and screamed for the sheriff.

Chief Smith, Asst. Chief H. E. Camp and officer Richard Gossett arrested Waters in a house near the Clayton-DeKalb County line after tracing his activities.

[illegible] charge involving a [illegible]-year-old girl who has been detained at the Juvenile Dentention Home [illegible] Saturday night when police discovered her screaming for help.

[illegible], of 209 Palm Drive, East Point, and co-owner of the J. and R. Rag Co., 347 Hills Avenue, S. W., was assessed bonds totalling $1,000 on charges of molesting and giving whiskey to a minor, Detective J. L. [illegible] said Monday.

Detective Supt. T. G. Cowan said Jester would probably be taken before the Grand Jury Tuesday to face additional charges.

Meanwhile, police were considering securing a restraining order to enjoin Jester from intimidating the girl's brothers and mother who said they moved to a relative's home Thursday night in fear of reprisals from Jester.

DETAINED IN HOME

The 13-year-old girl, who police said was highly intoxicated and screaming when first discovered on Hills Avenue was immediately placed under protective custody at the Juvenile Detention Home.

Investigating officers said witnesses were questioned Wednesday and Thursday to determine if Jester was apparently guilty of a lewd violation. He was arrested Thursday night on suspicion of giving the girl whiskey the previous Tuesday, but made bond and returned to the residential section where he reportedly attempted to enter the girl's house.

The girl's brother told how the man had gone after whiskey she joined him in drink. Later she was allegedly struck while her brother had gone after cigarettes. The brother, who gave his age as 14, returned to find his sister bleeding.

Later, police heard the girl screaming. She was taken to detention home, and the ensuing investigation led to the white man's arrest.

Rag Man Bound Over To Child Molesting Case

[illegible]-year-old white man, yesterday [illegible] over in Recorder's [illegible] to the Fulton Grand Jury on

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Jester Trial Date Revealed

A 45-year-old white man, accused of molesting a 13-year-old Negro girl, is scheduled for arraignment in the criminal division of Fulton Superior Court March 17, court records show.

Ted Young Jester, co-owner of the J. & R. Rag Co., 347 Hills Ave. S.W., was listed on the court calender for the week of March 14 to face trial on March 17. He had been indicted a week before on two felonious charges of molesting and furnishing intoxicants to a minor.

The calender showed trial would be held in the court of Judge Virlyn B. Moore, listed the charge for arraignment simply as a felony.

Jester, who was assessed bonds totaling $700, earlier was accused with statutory rape and sodomy, but a Fulton County Grand Jury failed to indict him on either of these counts. The Fulton Solicitor General said this was because he needed more than the accusation of an alleged victim in a rape case.

Girl, 13, Abducted In Attempted 'Crime Of Passion' Here

A 13-year-old girl was kidnapped around 9:30 p.m. Wednesday by three men riding in an old model Chevrolet, police reported.

Officers D. H. Riley and I. C. Andrews say they returned the girl to her home after her abductors released her at the corner of Decatur and Peachtree Streets following a four hour ride.

The young girl, who lives at a Harris Street address with her grandmother, is quoted by police as saying the tallest of the three men attempted to force her to have intimate relations with him, but when she refused, he allegedly hit her "with his fist in her side and back." Police listed the motive of the crime as "passion."

According to the girl's description, her kidnappers were approximately 19 years of age. One was listed as approximately six feet tall, light complexion, and wearing green fatigue pants with outside pockets and a white T shirt. A second was of medium complexion. His height was listed as five feet eight inches, and he wore blue jeans, and a pink long sleeved shirt. The third dark skinned, and he was wearing white shirt and khakki pants. He too was about five feet eight inches tall.

Police have launched a search for the alleged kidnappers.

Ravished body of Georgia girl is found in river

ROME, Ga., June 25—(AP)—Wrapped in a quilt and tied with a log chain? the ravished body of slim, blond 14-year-old Patricia Ann Cook, was found Saturday in the muddy Etowah River.

It also was weighted down with a huge wrench and had not moved from the spot where a paroled sex criminal had thrown it after raping and slaying the girl Monday.

The feet were trussed together with baling wire. Underneath the mud-smeared quilt was the bathing suit she was wearing when the rapist-killer coaxed her away from a sunbath at her home.

In confessing the crime, Willie G. Cochran, ex-jailbird and mental patient, at first claimed he choked Patricia Ann to death. Later officers reported he mumbled something about shooting her.

An early examination of the body indicated she had been shot. The remains were hauled from the eight-foot deep river with grappling hooks and taken to nearby Cartersville, Ga., for an inquest.

NATIONAL GUARDSMEN, who had been dragging the river since Cochran confessed early Friday, claimed credit for finding the body. Herman Evans, Floyd County policeman, was first to reach it.

The place was just below Milam's bridge on a dirt country road between the hill country hamlets of Euharlee and Stilesboro. It is five miles below another bridge from which Cochran first claimed to have thrown it.

The killer, apparently hoping the severity of his punishment would be lightened if the body were never found, told several conflicting stories about is disposal, Sheriff Joe Adams reported.

One was that he buried it a mile from the murder site.

The sheriff said Cochran has been definitely identified as the man who was seen at several places with the girl, Monday. He has been formally charged with kidnaping and the officer said murder and rape warrants would be issued.

Sentence 2 Upheld For Attack On Girl 12

EASTMAN, Ga. (SNS) — In what was called the first case of its kind in the area, two young white men received sentences for the rape of a 12-year-old Negro girl. The maximum sentence for such a crime is death by electrocution; one of the pair received a sentence from one to two years, the other, two to five.

The men, brothers, were identified as Jack S. Williamson and Albert G. Williamson. Albert, who entered a guilty plea, received the one to two year charge. Jack was convicted with a recommendation of mercy and received the two to five year sentence.

According to the reconstruction of the incident, the two men abducted the child on Otober 9 when she was waiting for a stalled car to be repaired so she could continue her trip to church.

The driver, although unable to protect her, did recognize the men and report the matter to the sheriff's office. It was not until the next morning that deputies placed the pair under arrest.

Solicitor General Wade Johnson prosecuted the case on behalf of the state.

2 Desperadoes Hunted in Atlanta After Escaping Rome Court Cell

Constitution State News Service

ROME, June 7—Two prisoners described as desperate and extremely dangerous escaped at noon Tuesday from a detention cell in the Federal Building where they were awaiting arraignment in U.S. District, the FBI said.

J. K. Mumford, special agent in charge of the Atlanta FBI office, said the break was made while federal marshals who had custody of the two were away at lunch.

The escapees were identified as Franklin D. Robinson, 31, of Atlanta, who was to have been arraigned on charges of post office burglary, and George Krull, 30, of McKees Rock, Pa., charged with kidnaping, rape and interstate transportation of a stolen automobile.

The two, both with long prison records, were believed to have fled toward Atlanta in a stolen car soon after the break.

Mumford said the men removed a glass observation window from the door of their detention cell



George Krull F. D. Robinson

and wriggled through a 10 by 12-inch hole. They mingled with a crowd in the courthouse corridor and slipped unnoticed to the street.

"Our information is that they didn't have a cent between them when they made the break," Mumford said. "By this time they undoubtedly are armed and should be considered extremely dangerous."

Evidence was presented before a federal grand jury Monday at Rome charging Krull, his brother Michael Krull and two other men with kidnaping a middle-aged Chattanooga business woman, driving her to Georgia and raping her at the Chickamauga National Park, Mumford said.

The Krulls were indicted Tuesday on charges of kidnaping and rape on a government reservation—both of which carry the death penalty—and interstate transportation of a stolen auto, Mumford said. He said Robinson was indicted on charges of post office burglary.

Both were placed in the detention cell after the indictments were returned to await formal arraignment.

J. B. Hatchett, assistant director of the Georgia Board of Corrections, said Robinson was transferred from the Rock Quarry Prison for incorrigibles at Buford to Rome for the trial.



HUMAN DRAGNET—Georgia National Guardsmen search the Etowah River for the body of Patricia Ann Cook, Rome teenager allegedly kidnaped, raped and murdered. The guardsmen keep uniform formation by clinging to a rope tied to boats on either side of the stream. The body was located yesterday by grappling hooks at the spot where Willie Grady Cochran, a 37-year-old sawmill worker, told police he threw the body after killing the girl.

AP Wirephoto

In Quilt And Log Chain

Georgia Searche[d] Find Body Of Murdered Girl

ROME, Ga., June 25 (AP) — Wrapped in a quilt and tied with a log chain, the ravished body of slim, blonde 14-year-old Patricia Ann Cook was found today in the muddy Etowah River.

It [was] weighted down with a huge wrench and had not moved from the spot where a paroled sex criminal had thrown it after raping and slaying the girl Monday.

The feet were trussed together with baling wire. Underneath the mud-smeared quilt was the body, still clad in the bathing suit she was wearing when the rapist-killer coaxed her away from a sunbath at her home.

In confessing the crime, Willie G. Cochran, ex-jailbird and mental patient, at first claimed he choked Patricia Ann to death. Later, officers reported, he mumbled something about shooting her.

An early examination of the body indicated she had been shot. The remains were hauled from the eight-foot deep river with grappling hooks and taken to nearby Cartersville, Ga., for an inquest.

National Guardsmen, who had been dragging the river since Cochran confessed early yesterday, found the body.

The place was just below Milams Bridge on a dirt country road between the hill country hamlets of Euharlee and Stilesboro. It is five miles below another bridge from which Cochran first claimed to have thrown it.

The killer told several conflicting stories about its disposal, Sheriff Joe Adams said.

One was that he buried it a mile from the murder site.

Taken to the Fulton County jail in Atlanta for safekeeping yesterday, the 37-year-old sawmill worker was whisked away again by Sheriff Adams at midnight last night.

He was to have pointed out the girl's grave. "But he was lying,"

Monday afternoon.

Cochran, paroled last December after serving 9 years of a 20-year sentence for rape, was arrested Wednesday.

Friday officers said, he confessed that he had offered to drive her to a nearby swimming pool but instead had taken her to a wooded area where he had raped and killed her.

murder and rape warrants would be issued.

Hundreds of officers, firemen, National Guardsmen and volunteers searched the river as well as the mountainous wooded southeast of Rome and Cartersville in the hunt for the body.

The girl, a slender blonde, appeared from her photos she had been taking

Adams said.

The sheriff said Cochran has been definitely identified as the man who was seen at several places with the girl Monday. He has been formally charged with kidnaping and the officer said

Three Convicted, Sentenced On Criminal Attack Charges

World
Wed. 1-24-55

PERRY, Ga.—(SNS)—A Houston County Superior Court Tuesday sentenced three young white men to 10 to 20 years on each of two separate charges of raping Negro women.

27-1(2)

Sentence was handed by Judge Oscar L. Long after an all-male jury returned a verdict of guilty around 9 p. m. The jury deliberated more than two hours. The sentences are to run concurrently.

The trio are Thomas Hutton, 22, and his brother, Billy, 20, both of Warner Robbins (near Macon), and Robert O. Odgers, 19, of Birmingham, Ala.

Atlanta Ga.

The well-dressed criminals showed little emotion, but their relatives wept at the verdict.

A Houston County Negro women testified that the three men each raped her during early morning hours in Warner Robbins last May 22. She said they held a butcher knife on her as a threat during the attack.

SECOND OFFENSE

A second Negro woman told the court that the trio came to her house the same morning and that Odgers raped her in the same manner. The husbands of both women also testified at the trial.

Posing as state revenue agents looking for whiskey, the young white men took the women's husbands out of the house and held them at gun point while the alleged attacks were going on, the women said. The husband in the second case said one of the men shot at him.

In unsworn statements, each of the men admitted sexual relations with the Warner Robbins woman. Odgers claimed he was in the act of having relations with the second woman but heard a gun-shot and ran. The men denied raping the women, claiming the two women consented willingly.

Houston County Sheriff C. O. Chapman testified that the sentenced men all signed a written confession to rape charges "voluntarily."

Solicitor General William West said all three men face charges of robbery, and the Hutton brothers face burglary charges in separate cases set for trial later this week.

2 White Men Convicted Rape Girl; Get Short Terms

Daily World
Thursday, Feb. 24-55

EASTMAN, Ga. — Two white men were found guilty of raping a 12-year Negro girl. However, they were only given a few months in prison for their distardly crime.

The two members brothers, Jack S Williams, received two to five years and his brother received one to two years.

The jury took only a few minutes to find the brothers guilty. They heard testimony as to how the child was taken from a car driven by a Negro man and criminally attacked by the brothers October 9, 1954.

The girl and driver were coming for church services when the incident took place.

she screamed," Grant explained. He said he put on his shirt and ran to her aid, "but he had driven off when I arrived." He found the woman "feeling her arm where he had hurt her."

A Negro man, who accompanied the unidentified white man to the house, remained outside until the woman screamed, Grant said. It was believed he drove the car off only after the alleged attacker made his escape.

Furthermore, witnesses said the unidentified man denied to police that his white companion had tried to rape the woman, although he was outside in the auto.

The victim said she was alone in her home when the man came to put on some siding.

"We've only been here a week," she declared.

The woman said she was attired in shorts when the man came. The siding had not arrived, she said, and the man gained entrance to her house by asking to use the phone.

"He grabbed my arm," she recalled, and explained how she managed to break loose.

"I told him my husband was in the backyard, but he didn't pay any attention. He said it would not take long," she continued.

ACTED LIKE MANIAC

She thought for a moment, and mused, "He acted so strangely...almost like a maniac..."

The petite woman, who gave her height and weight as five-feet, one-inch and 105 pounds, said he caught her by the arm again, "and threw me on the floor."

He then attempted to undress her but halted when her neighbor came to aid her after she screamed, she continued.

Police were called, she said, and two uniformed men came to the house. Later, two detectives arrived and interviewed her. One of them advised her not to take her case to court the woman said, but she insisted she felt something should be done.

Thursday night, the woman said, she was called to the police station, to identify her attacker.

"He was shaking like a leaf," when she confronted him at police headquarters, she said.

However, the woman said, police failed to hold the man, and simply gave him a copy of charges to appear in court.

The woman, the mother of four children, was unable to determine if the man might come back and attack her once more.

A search for the man's identity so far has proven fruitless and it is not known what charge has been placed against the alleged attacker.

Interviews with several neighbors revealed the community was shocked. One resident said he felt the man should have been kept in jail to prevent further possible attacks in the neighborhood, which has enjoyed an existence of quiet for many years.

Matron Charges Repair Man With Trying To Attack Her

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

A 24-year-old woman told of a harrowing experience yesterday in which she said she was attacked by a white carpenter about 24 hours earlier in her home in an exclusive Westside community where she had lived about a week.

No records of the Thursday afternoon affair were available at Atlanta Police headquarters and the head of the squad which would handle such types of accusations said nothing had been reported.

However, the young woman and a witness who said he answered her call for help, produced subpeonas appear in court August 11 at 3:30 p. m. to testify in connection with the case.

Feb. 2-30-55

The man, identified as Rockford Grant, said the white man came to the house to do repairs. The woman was attacked while he was in his own apartment, he said.

RESCUE TOO LATE

"I was practically asleep when

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

Alleged Assault On Girl Brings Protests From S. Atlanta Group

Daily World Atlanta, Ga.
Jun. 10 27h ②
1-23 1, 1

By SAMUEL L. ADAMS

"We don't want another Till case."

These words and others represented what appeared to be the wrath of an enraged Negro community in South Atlanta following the alleged Wednesday assault of a 15-year-old girl by a white storekeeper.

Pickets Saturday at 4 p. m., began patroling in front of Edwards Grocery and police arrested the white storekeepers' wife and a Negro woman who operates a soda shop next door. The arrest was made after the two women struck each other in the presence of police officers, climaxing an argument. And the chain of events may not be over.

The whole thing started when 15-year-old Lillie Mae Burroughs went to the store to purchase a package of chewing gum. She was given $4.95 change from a $5 bill, according to witnesses, but the grocer later suspected that he should have given her change for $1 instead.

Edward Zamoscinski, Polish speaking proprietor of the store, said he sent his helper to pick the girl up in his car when he discovered he had given her too much change.

"I don't know who to talk to or what to do," he said in broken English. "I swear I no hit the girl. She said I gave you $5, so I put dime in the telephone to call police and she try to run—and I shut the door."

Another version of the story was that given by Mrs. Lillie Burroughs, mother of the girl who was allegedly struck.

Mrs. Burroughs said she only had $5 and sent the children to the store to get change so that they would have money at school. She said her daughter first gave the bill to a Negro boy who works in the store after purchasing a pack of gum. The boy refused the money because he is not allowed to ring the cash register, so she gave it to "Mr. Edward," the mother added.

After the girl had left the store with change from $5, she continued, "he sent the little boy to overtake her in the car. A bunch of girls were with her and they all got in," She added:

"When she got back to the store he reached and grabbed her, snatched her in the door and she tried to get out. He slung her around and twisted her arm. She tried to get out but he kept dragging her back with his foot."

Mrs. Burroughs said after being told of the incident, she went to the store herself to investigate.

"The police asked the little boy if Lillie Mae gave him $5 and he said "Yes." I said "Oh that was my last $5 and you mean to tell me you aren't going to give me my change? I don't have money with which to go to work."

She said the storekeeper then began rampling in his cash drawer and placed the change on the counter for her. The 35-year-old woman is the mother of five children, resides at 872 Troup St. and is a domestic worker.

Perhaps the most exciting of the chain of events that followed involved Mrs. Emma Zamoscinski, wife of the white grocer and Mrs. Gussie Hurst, operator of a soda shop next door.

Daily World
Dec

The two women got into an argument in Mrs. Hurst's soda shop when police came there to investigate another incident. Witnesses say Mrs. Zamoscinski struck Mrs. Hurst during the argument and was in turn slapped by vigorously Mrs. Hurst.

Atlanta, Ga.
Reject

This happened in the presence of the police and when they started to arrest my mother the crowd started yelling: 'Carry both both of them to jail if you going to carry her.' So they arrested both of them" according to Robert Trigg, 22-year-old son of Mrs. Hurst.

Mr. Zamoscinski complained of losing much trade and wondered why pickets would wait three days after the incident to start picketing the store. He said he does not know what to do or who to turn to. He was advised to pay damages or console the mother of the child who claims injury from the alleged assault.

Police advised pickets to patrol one at a time.

27h(2) 1955

GERMANY

9002

9002

U.S. COURT-MARTIAL SENTENCES TWO GI'S

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany, Nov. 17 (AP)—Two US soldiers were convicted by court-martial here Thursday of assault with intent to rape a 17-year-old German girl last May.

Pvt. Lester A. Hudmon, 24, of Fairfax, Ala., was sentenced to eight years imprisonment at hard labor.

Specialist 3C Denver L. White, 26, of Ravenna, Ohio, was sentenced to five years imprisonment at hard labor.

The convictions, which included dishonorable discharge and loss of pay and allowances, are subject to review.

GIRL, 17, FOILS RAPE ATTEMPT; BADLY BEATEN

Miss Dolores O'Connell, 17, of 2148 Newcastle av., a Notre Dame High school pupil, was injured seriously early yesterday as she fought off a would be rapist who seized her at Barry and Newcastle av. and tried to drag her into an alley.

Miss O'Connell was on her way home after parting from a girl friend with whom she had attended a late movie. She said the assailant beat her with one of her own slippers, but she kept screaming and slapping him until he fled down the alley. She was taken to St. Anne's hospital for treatment of a deep laceration on the head.

Kidnaper Hunted

Police also were seeking a motorist, about 30, who kidnaped and mistreated Miss Genevieve Oomaszewicz, 17, of 2303 19th st., an insurance company clerk, Friday night. She was walking in Leavitt st., near 21st st., on her way to St. Ann's church, she said, when the assailant stopped his car and dragged her inside.

The victim said the assailant threatened to "sock" her and drove to an alley near Roosevelt rd., where he molested her. Then, she said, he drove to 18th st. and Damen av. and put her out. Police took her to County hospital.

Pupil Accused of Rape

John A. Macioce, 18, of 3841 Marquette rd., a Washburne Trade school pupil, was charged with rape and assault to commit a lewd act yesterday after questioning at the state's attorney's office on the story of an 18 year old bookkeeper-typist.

The woman charged that Macioce and a companion called Mike raped her in an auto early March 5 while taking her home from the Hub Roller Skating rink, 4510 N. Harlem rd., Norwood Park. Macioce was arrested Friday night after the woman pointed him out at the rink. He denied her story.

BELL CO. UNION JOIN IN REWARD TO TRAP RAPISTS

45 Cops Are Assigned to Hunt 4 Men

A reward of $5,000 was offered yesterday for information leading to arrest and conviction of four Negroes who kidnaped two Illinois Bell Telephone company women employes last Saturday night, beat one of them and raped her 10 times, slugged her companion, and robbed them of $108.

The reward was offered jointly by the phone company and the Chicago Telephone Traffic union.

Assign 45 Police to Case

The announcement was made when Blaine Cummings, Chicago area general manager for the company, and Mrs. Emma I. Jascot, president of the union, called on Police Commissioner O'Connor.

The two expressed confidence police were doing everything possible to identify and apprehend the assailants, but said they thought the reward would add incentive for outsiders to aid in the manhunt.

Cummings said company private investigators are working with police. O'Connor said he has assigned 20 men from the detective bureau and 25 from district stations to the case.

Chief of Detectives John T. O'Malley has been placed in direct command of the investigation.

Favors Death Penalty

"This is just a case in joint for the bill pending before the state legislature which would permit the death penalty for forcible rape," O'Connor told Cummings and Mrs. Jascot.

The two said they would write the legislature to urge enactment of the proposed legislation.

O'Malley, who visited the Englewood and Gresham police districts in connection with the investigation, said that so far no "good suspects" have been found, altho several persons have been questioned.

Meanwhile, the county grand jury reportedly voted a true bill accusing Peter Martinez, 16, of 1927 Peoria st., with rape. He was accused of beating and raping a widow, 65, a Gold Star mother, Monday in her home near 19th and Halsted sts.

DEMANDS FAST ACTION AGAINST YOUNG RAPIST

Capt. Redmond Gibbons of Maxwell st. police district said he will ask State's Atty. Gutknecht to seek a direct indictment against Peter Martinez, 16, of 1927 Peoria st., arrested for beating and raping a 65 year old Gold Star mother yesterday in her home near 19th and Halsted sts.

Meanwhile, Chief of Detectives John T. O'Malley ordered the arrest of 14 k nown sex offenders whose descriptions match those of two of four men who raped a 47 year old widow and telephone operator Sunday and slugged her 61 year old woman companion. To spur the search, Mrs. Emma I. Jascot, president of the Chicago Telephone Traffic union, offered a $500 reward from union funds for arrest and conviction of the four.

Seized in Victim's Bed

Martinez was arrested by Detectives Joseph Mazur and Steve Grace while asleep in the victim's bed. The victim, a widow whose two sons were killed in World War II, said he broke thru a rear door, slapped her repeatedly, then raped her several times. When he fell asleep, she went to a nearby firehouse and called police.

Martinez, a pupil in the Montefiore school, has a long record for juvenile delinquency, Gibbons said.

The telephone operator and her companion, a telephone company supervisor, were seized at gunpoint as they entered their auto at Englewood and Stewart avs. after leaving the telephone exchange at 6308 Stewart av. They were driven to the rear of 5768 La Salle st., where the widow was raped repeatedly. The auto in which the rapists fled was found abandoned in the alley at 9354 La Salle st.

Live in Same Area

O'Malley said the 14 sex offenders live in the area near 93d and La Salle sts. Squads from the Englewood district and four from Gresham were canvassing homes near the scene of the attack and the location of the abandoned car. They were assisted by four squads from the detective bureau, and one squad each from Deering st., Stockyards, and New City districts on orders of Thomas Lyons, chief of the uniformed force.

Sex bureau records revealed there were 50 forcible rapes and 20 solved during the first three months of this year as compared with 35 and 23 solved during the same period of 1954.

POLICE RECOVER STOLEN PURSE OF RAPE VICTIM

The purse which a rapist stole Tuesday night when he attacked Mrs. Nellie McNally, 64, of 109 N. Karel av. on a porch ing at that address, was found yesterday. Mrs. McNally died Wednesday of a heart condition, aggravated by the assault.

Detectives Ernie Rollett and Patrick O'Brien of the sex bureau found the purse beneath a porch stairs three blocks away at 5289 Lake st. The janitor there and children living in the vicinity said the purse was not there Thursday. The detectives said this strengthened their belief that the rapist lived in the neighborhood.

A compact in the purse was sent to the police crime laboratory to be inspected for finger prints. Other belongings of Mrs. McNally's also were in the purse which had been looted of $11, a $91 board of education check, and a $50 savings bond. A woman, about 35, cashed the check Thursday in the currency exchange at 2142 S. Cicero av., Cicero.

RAPIST ATTACKS HOUSEWIFE, 19, RANSACKS FLAT

Police yesterday sought a rapist who attacked a 19 year old wife in her apartment in the vicinity of North and Kedzie avs.

The victim told Detectives Edward Trookstad and John McCarthy the man accosted her in the lobby of the building in which she lives when she returned from shopping.

Uses Husband's Ties

He asked about renting an apartment in the building and the woman referred him to the janitor. She opened the door and walked to her second floor apartment, unaware that the man had slipped thru the door and followed her quietly up the stairs.

When she opened the door, the man pushed her thru it and threatened her. Then he shoved her into a bedroom and raped her. Using neckties belonging to the woman's husband, the man tied her to a kitchen chair and ransacked the apartment.

Also in Austin District

After the man tied, the victim knocked over the chair and crawled to the telephone. She called her husband in the Melrose Park factory where he

Charred Body Sets Off Hunt For 'Mad Dog'

CHICAGO, July 7 (AP)—The discovery of the beaten, burned body of an 8-year-old girl today touched off a search for a killer who was branded a "mad dog."

The victim was Mary Manzo, a brown-eyed, dark-haired child who had been in the third grade in a public school.

Three street sweepers found the tiny body in a long, dim underpass beneath the Pennsylvania Railroad tracks at 46th St. and Normal Ave. on the South Side.

Detectives said the body had been burned in an attempt to destroy it.

Coroner Walter E. McCarron viewed the body and termed the slayer a "mad dog."

Officials moved 100 extra policemen into the area—east of the stockyards—in a hunt for the killer.

Police Commissioner Timothy J. O'Connor said the girl probably had been "sexually assaulted and then murdered."

The body was clad in a white blouse and pink skirt. Mary was wearing them when she last was seen alive Monday evening. But her red tennis shoes and underwear were missing.

Smudges of mud and a darker substance—possibly coal—were discerned. They indicated the body had been in a field or basement before it was placed in the underpass.

Harry Glos, the coroner's chief investigator, said Mary had been struck a hard blow on the right side of the head. He added that both of her eyes were discolored. He estimated death had occurred at least 48 hours earlier—possibly on the night she vanished.

"We think the killer may have kept the body on his own premises," said Capt. Frank Reynolds, "and then took it out and dumped it when the search of the area got too hot."

Mary lived with her father, Daniel, 45, a steel worker, her mother and five brothers in a Wentworth Ave. home about a mile southeast of the place where her body was found.

Her mother, Lucy, 28, sent Mary to a drug store Monday evening to buy a nursing nipple. A clerk reported she made the purchase and left.

Police began checking a report that another child had seen Mary forced into an automobile near her home Monday evening.

Mary's mother and an aunt wnet to the underpass to identify the body. The mother collapsed when she reached the scene. But the aunt looked upon the body and screamed:

"That's her. Oh, my God, that's her."

Kept Dates With Men

Asst. State's Atty. Horace Lund, who ordered the filing of charges, said the girls' parents work the same hours and many of the acts took place in their home in Phoenix.

Lund said the girls also kept dates with the men in cars, in shacks, in the forest preserves, and on the banks of the Calumet river. He said members of the gang ranged in age from 13 to 20. The girls and nine juvenile men are in custody of juvenile authorities.

Sat. 1-23-55

Five Are Pupils

Those charged were Charles Pope, 17, of 1512 Lexington st.; William Balding, 17, of 521 E. 158th st.; Quentin Little, 18, of 15335 Lexington st.; Alton Carter, 19, of 158 E. 154th st.; Allen LeGraff, 17, of 15924 Parfk st.; Gary Williams, 18, of 32 E. 147th st., and Roger Moore, 17, of 15237 Ashland av., all of Harvey, and Ray Budlove, 20, of 13902 Park st., Dolton; Don Hedgren, 17, of 205th st. and Gardner av., Olympic Gardens, and Eugene J. Sadzewicz, 18, of 15709 Carey av., Phoenix.

Lund said Pope, Balding, LeGraff, Moore, and Sadzewicz are pupils at Thornton Township High school.

pass. He said he lured her into an alley by offering to buy her some candy.

The youth told police Mary screamed and cried when he tried to rape her, and he struck her. She died that night, Baugh said.

Reynolds said that a tip from a woman during a canvass of the Manzo neighborhood led to Baugh's arrest. He said the woman told police she had seen Baugh playing with little girls in the neighborhood and had had to chase him away.

HINSDALE COPS HUNT YOUTH IN RAPE OF GIRL, 4

Daily Herald
Chicago Sun
Mon 8-1-55

Lures Child Into Auto and Assaults Her

Hinsdale police, augmented by a 33 man reserve force, yesterday were hunting a rapist who assaulted and molested a 4 year old girl within a block of her home shortly before dusk Friday in southwest Hinsdale.

bushes within sight of his home.

Police, it was learned, concealed all information about the crime until yesterday, while they sent squads augmented by the reserve policemen—business men residents interested in police work as a hobby—to question residents in the neighborhood. Theodore M. Wardwell, village manager, denied he had given orders to police to conceal the crime, and said "there is no intention to cover up."

Hinsdale residents complained because police there apparently did not report the crime to state police, DuPage county authorities, or police in nearby suburbs, where aid could have been sought in hunting the criminal.

Canvass Every Home

Police and the reserves Saturday canvassed every home within a three block radius of the attack, asking residents if they had seen an auto of the description or a man who was acting suspiciously. Yesterday they extended the inquiry into the Golf View Hills subdivision.

Residents reported that failure of police to make a public report of the crime apparently was a village policy, since a similar incident a year ago, in which a teen-ager was raped near the West Hinsdale station of the Burlington railroad, was suppressed.

SEARCH STATE FAIR AREA FOR CLEW TO RAPIST

Daily Journal
Chicago Sun
Tues: 8-23-55

Condition of Girl, 18, Is Still Critical

BY JOHNSON KANADY
[Chicago Tribune Press Service]

Springfield, Ill., Aug. 22—Sangamon county authorities tonight arrested and held two men for investigation in the beating and attempted rape of Lois Gene Lehn, 18, of Maroa, Macon county, on Sunday, the last day of the Illinois state fair.

The men were identified only as "carnival workers" by the sheriff's office.

The girl, clubbed in her bed in a horse tent at the fair, remained in a critical condition in St. John's hospital here.

Capt. John Stuper, of the state police, in charge of the state's investigation into the attack, left later for Decatur, Ill., to question persons who were in the temporary horse barn at the time of the attack. He said the girl has been unable to give a coherent account of the attack.

27 h (2)

Skull Fractured

Her skull was fractured, apparently with a wooden truck stake, 40 inches long and 2 inches in diameter. Police found the stake, marked with bloodstains and strands of hair.

Police searched the 366 acre fairgrounds for bloodstained clothing, on the theory that the attacker may have discarded part of his clothing, almost certain to be bloodstained as a result of the vicious bludgeoning.

Paul W. Terril, chief investigator for Sangamon County Sheriff Arthur Gross, said he believes Miss Lehn was struck while she was sleeping on her cot in the tack room assigned to her as a contestant in the western horse show at the fair.

Free After Lie Tests

She was found at 7:10 a. m. Sunday in an unoccupied stall across the aisle from the space assigned to her. Her head rested on a sack of empty beer cans, and a watermelon rind was jammed against her face.

Paul Hanley, 29, of Decatur, one of those who found her, told police.

Hanley was held for questioning last night at the Sangamon county jail, but was released this morning. He had submitted to two lie detector tests.

Hanley, who said he has had dates with the girl, and Wayne Wikoff, of near Decatur, a friend of her family, found her after they noticed she was not in the tack room. There were bloodstains on her pillow, and on the stall door frame.

10 IN SEX RING ARE NAMED IN RAPE CHARGES

Journal
Sun-Times
Sun 8-21-55

9 Others Held with Sisters, 13 and 15

Ten of 19 young men who have admitted having relations in the last six months with two sisters, aged 13 and 15, were charged with statutory rape yesterday. They will appear in Phoenix police court Tuesday.

Frank Kuczaik, Phoenix police chief, and Homewood sherif's deputies completed a roundup of the gang Thursday. Kuczaik said he learned of the group's activities Wednesday, questioned the two girls, and learned the young men's names.

Boy, 17, Admits Rape-Slaying

Journal
Louisville Ky
Mon 7-25-55

Tells of Luring 7-Year-Old Girl

Chicago, July 27 (U.P.)—A 17-year-old boy today confessed the slaying of 8-year-old Mary Manzo, who was kidnaped, raped, and slain three weeks ago, police said.

Police Capt. Frank Reynolds said Clarence Baugh confessed after all-night questioning. Baugh broke down and said, "Well, you got me," after a lie-detector test indicated guilt, Reynolds said.

Mary disappeared July 4 while on her way home from a drug-store.

Her body was found in a debris-laden viaduct three days later.

Reynolds quoted Baugh, a Negro, as saying he knew the girl and had hidden in a passageway and waited for her to

The child, playing in front of her home near the Madison elementary school about 6:30 a. m. Friday, told police a man believed to be in his late teens and driving a two toned blue and cream or blue and gold sedan, possibly a Ford, enticed her into his car with the promise of taking her to a place where he would get her a kitten.

Father Notices Auto

He drove around the corner from her home and into an alley back of vacant property, heavily shaded by bushes and trees. There, he disrobed the child, molested, and assaulted her. Her father said he whistled for her to come in to dinner, and noticed the auto driving away thru the

9004

State Police Seek Rapist as Assailant

Daily Tribune

BY JOHNSON KANADY

[Chicago Tribune Press Service]

Springfield, Ill., Aug. 21—The attempted rape, and critical injury of a 15 year old Decatur girl marred the closing hours of the 1955 Illinois state fair here today.

The girl, believed bludgeoned with a truck stake, was in critical condition at St. John's hospital here. Physicians diagnosed her injury as a skull fracture. Police said rape had been attempted.

Mon. 8-22-55

State and county authorities thru the afternoon questioned suspects in the attack, including three youths here in connection with the exhibiting of western and stock horses on the last two days of the fair.

Lie Detector Tests

Police questioned a dozen persons during the morning and afternoon and gave lie detector tests to two of them. They declined to report on their progress in winnowing suspects from the thousands of persons who were on the fairgrounds late last night and early today. The victim late today had been unable to give a coherent account of the attack.

Chicago

The girl was found at 7:10 a. m. today, unconscious, on the straw of an unused horse stall, cluttered with paper cartons and beer cans.

The stall is across an aisle, and about 15 feet from the stall assigned to the girl, a contestant in the western horse show, as a tack room and sleeping quarters.

Police said she apparently had been attacked and bludgeoned in the stall assigned her, then dragged across to the stall where she was found. A bloody mark was found on the gate of the stall in which the girl lay.

Find Bloody Stake

State police recovered a truck stake which apparently was the attack weapon. The stake, about 40 inches long, and about two inches in diameter, had blood marks on it, and bits of hair.

When found, the girl was clothed in shorts and blouse. The blouse was stained with blood.

The girl was discovered by Wayne Wikoff, of Decatur, a friend of her family, and Paul Hanley, of Decatur, who went to the girl's quarters. They followed traces of blood to the unoccupied stall across the straw strewn passageway.

Parents Had Left

Both stalls are situated in a temporary tented horse barn near the Coliseum where the society and western horse shows are held. The victim's parents had left her here overnight in company of Wikoff, who has a daughter about the same age, and other Decatur people. One Decatur family was sleeping in a stall adjoining that of the victim.

Rape

Wikoff said in an interview that he saw the girl before she retired, shortly after midnight Saturday. He and she and others participating in the show had been talking.

He said she was happy about having placed in one of the contests and being able to show again today. She asked him when he was returning to Decatur, he said, and he told her that since his horse had been eliminated he would go back today.

Blood Spot on Pillow

Hanley, who told police he has dated the girl "once or twice," said her parents put her in his care last night. He said he and Wikoff slept in the aisle of the barn, several stalls away from the girl's room.

He said he noticed early this morning that the girl, who had told him she wanted to be up early to ride the Coliseum tanbark at 6 a. m., was gone from the room. He said he noticed a spot of blood on her pillow at that time, but did not report it.

27h(2)

Later, Hanley said, Wykoff became alarmed at the girl's absence and they both set out to look for her. Hanley said he found the girl after pushing open the stall door. Her head was on a sack of beer cans, he said, and a watermelon rind was pushed against her face.

Muttered "Help Me"

She muttered "Help me up," as he lifted her, he said.

Both state and county police officials were investigating into the attack. Chief Phil Brown of the state police assigned Capt. John Stuper to the case, and called in the division of criminal investigation headed by James Christensen.

A portable lie detector was installed in the administration building of the fair grounds to speed the investigation.

Prowler Terrifies Chicago Socialites

Terrified socialites living in the Hyde Park-Kenwood area were locking windows and bolting doors this week against a "cunning" sex degenerate who has attacked seven prominent women since Sept. 7.

So alarmed is the area over the activities of the elusive prowler that more than 50 indignant husbands met Tuesday night at the Kappa House to plan means of augmenting "inadequate" policing of the area.

The prowler was described by Hyde Park Police Lt. John Martin as a "clever sex degenerate" who knows a lot about police work and is familiar with neighborhoods in which he operates.

The attacker has, in all seven cases, committed "unnatural" sex acts on the women. None were actually raped. All but two of the victims have been Negro, one was white and another Japanese.

In the two months the attacker has been on the prowl he has worked the area from 47th st. to 51st., from Drexel blvd. to Blackstone. Police, however, believe it was the same man who Tuesday attempted to attack Mrs. Rose Friedman, 40, at 5731 Kenwood, but was routed by her screams.

The first report of the attacker's six offense was Sept. 7, when he entered a prominent woman's bedroom through an unlocked window, while her husband was away. He poked a gun in her face as she sprawled on the bed and, telling her "all I want is your money," threw a sheet over her face, and proceeded to molest her.

Police said robbery is the maniac's secondary motive, although he has escaped with at least $1,000 in cash.

In another case, the molester entered a bedroom window and assaulted a woman for 45 minutes, while her husband slept upstairs.

Since the wave of attacks in the area began, Hyde Park police have arrested at least four suspects, but lie detectors tests proved inclusive.

According to reports the sex degenerate operates between the early morning hours of 12:30 and 2:30. He is said to be a dark complexioned man at least six feet in height, weighing about 200 pounds, with black crimpy hair.

None of the seven victims were able to recognize his face. They said he wore a handkerchief and a pair of brown leather gloves, but estimated his age at about 35 to 40.

Police believe all seven acts were committed by the same culprit.

Additional police were requested Tuesday from the Detective Bureau. The irate husbands of the seven victims, and other alarmed residents of the area have formed a special citizens committee to ask Police Commissioner O'Connor and Mayor Daley to assign more foot patrolmen to the area.

The chairman of the special committee, said this move "is to let the authorities know that we are supporting the actions of the Hyde Park police in this matter and are willing to cooperate to make certain the vicious attacker is apprehended."

TAXI DRIVER SOUGHT IN SLAYING OF CHILD

Canton Lead Is Believed To Be Good One

CANTON, Ill., Nov. 27.—(UP)—Police Sunday sought a young Canton taxicab driver for questioning in the brutal rape-slaying of an 8-year-old girl.

Police Chief Kenneth Lindzey termed the lead a good one after the cabdriver's vehicle was found abandoned at Pekin, Ill., 26 miles east of here.

The badly-beaten, mutilated body of auburn-haired Janice May, dressed only in a blouse, was found near railroad tracks on the city's outskirts late Saturday afternoon.

The cab driver, about 25, had been sought only for routine questioning at first, Chief Lindzey said. When officers tried to find him, however, it was discovered he had left town.

Police pressed for other clues in the case which has aroused this community of 17,000 about 165 miles southwest of Chicago.

Sheriff Virgil Ball said 25 persons, many of them with sex records, had already been questioned and cleared. Lie detectors are being used, he said.

Two bloodhounds, flown here from the Vandalia prison farm, worked for more than four hours without success.

TRANSIENT, 29, SEIZED IN RAPE OF BABY SITTER

Neighbors Join Pursuit with Clubs

Otha Hicks, 29, of Birmingham, Ala., a transient, was held by police after irate residents near Milwaukee av. and Augusta blvd., helped capture him yesterday after the rape of a 17 year old baby sitter.

The girl was caring for the four children of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Page, both 24, in their second floor apartment at 947 Milwaukee av.

The girl told police Hicks knocked on the door and asked for work washing windows. When she told him Mr. and Mrs. Page were not at home, he forced his way into the flat and raped her, she said.

Neighbors Join Chase

Mrs. Page arrived home just as Hicks was running down the front stairs. She heard the girl's screams and shouted to her husband, who was parking their auto in front of the apartment.

Hicks ran north toward Augusta blvd., and Page pursued him in his car.

Other residents who heard Mrs. Page's cries joined in the pursuit, some of them armed with clubs and pieces of pipe.

Hicks ran north to Noble st., jumping over fences and running up an alley. Patrolmen Otto Bandemer and Robert Garrow saw him and captured him as they began to question spectators at the scene.

Two other men, Sam Laudicina, 25, of 620 S. Racine av., and Joe Garcia, 29, of 2720 Warren blvd., the latter said by police to have a long record for rape and delinquency, were captured by Park Policemen Jess Harris and James Fabian yesterday for the rape of a 32 year old woman they had picked up in a tavern near Madison st. and Sacramento av.

Woman Severely Beaten

Asst. State's Atty. Horace Lund, who investigated the case, said both would be booked for assault to commit rape for hearing in Felony court Aug. 5. The woman, he said, was severely beaten, suffering a fractured jaw and fractured nose.

Lund said the woman told him she went for a ride with the men but they assaulted her while driving north on Lake Shore drive. They were captured at Granville av. and Sheridan rd. when a fire truck answering an alarm turned in front of them and caused their car to strike a light pole.

SEIZE SUSPECT IN ATTACK ON SCHOOL GIRL

John R. Britton, 24, of 2124 Shakespeare av., an unemployed factory inspector, was seized by police yesterday in connection with the rape of a 15 year old high school girl Tuesday night in Holstein park, Shakespeare and Oakley blvd., while she was returning home from a movie.

The girl identified Britton as the man who grabbed her, knocked her down, and assaulted her. He denied the charge.

Britton was arrested at Leavitt and Lyndale sts. by Detectives John Olsen, Kermit Block, and Thomas Barrett after the girl gave them a descriptive of the rapist.

SEIZE SUSPECT IN ATTEMPTED WILMETTE RAPE

A wild police chase thru Wilmette and Evanston early yesterday resulted in the arrest of a 17 year old man as the attacker who savagely beat Mrs. Barbara Karkow, 28, of 7520 Hoyne av., in an apparent rape attempt in front of her parents' home at 631 Washington av., Wilmette.

Mrs. Karkow, socially prominent and the mother of two, had been followed from Howard st. and Chicago av. by the terrorist as she drove to visit her father, William P. Winslow, at 3 a. m.

Leaps Into Her Car

The man leaped into her car as she parked, threatening her with a butcher knife. She struggled with him out of the cars and to the lawn, screaming for help. He fled when neighbors began turning on their lights.

Wilmette Cops Respond

Four Wilmette police cars were on their way, responding to a call from a neighbor, when they caught sight of the assailant's car.

Wilmette Police Chief Edwin Whiteside said the chase continued south into Evanston, where Evanston police joined. At Lincoln st. and Ashland av., Evanston, the fleeing attacker narrowly missed striking another car.

A policeman spotted the license number and reported it by radio. The pursuers lost sight of the car after it turned into Emerson st. Meanwhile, the radio operator reported back that the car checked to Morris J. Seawright, 17, of 2113 Emerson st.

Seized, Denies Assault

Seawright, seized in his home a few minutes later, denied the assault. He was identified by Mrs. Karkow at Evanston hospital where she had been taken for treatment of blackened eyes, a throat cut, and face and head bruises.

Whiteside said Mrs. Karkow first noticed the car following hers when she stopped at a red light. It stayed behind as far as the Northwestern university campus where she lost sight of it.

While she was parking, the car pulled up and the man asked directions to Waukegan. She told him how to get there and he asked her to repeat. Then he jumped out of his car and into the left side of hers, pushing her over.

She grabbed at the knife and he bit her on the left cheek, Whiteside said. Still struggling, she managed to get out of the right side of the car, and began to scream. The assailant beat her on the face and head and tried to drag her to his car.

Seawright was charged with assault with a deadly weapon and held on $50,000 bond. He will be brought before Police Magistrate Mason J. Clarke in Wilmette next Saturday.

RAPE SLAYING SEARCH TURNS TO EX-ROOMER

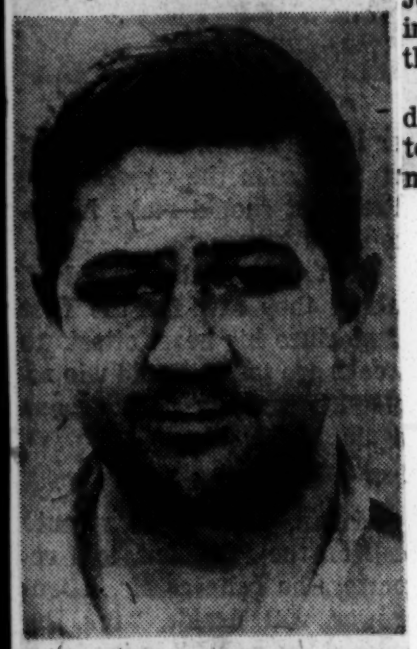
Sun, 12-4-55

Steve Joseph Pasco, 34, a husky welder and factory worker with a minor police record, was sought yesterday for questioning in the rap and murder of Mrs. Ruth Beal, 50, of 15736 Myrtle av., Harvey, mother of two.

Pasco was identified from pictures shown neighbors of Mrs. Beal as the former roomer in the Beal home who was seen at the house several times Friday. Larry Beal, 50, found the body of his wife when he returned home from work.

Evicted as Roomer

Police Chief Matt Romer of Harvey learned Pasco was a



Steve Joseph Pasco

roomer in the Beal home for six months, until Mrs. Beal evicted him about a month ago after she discovered lewd pictures in his room.

Mrs. Beal's naked body was found in a rear bedroom of the home. Her clothes had been stripped, her hands tied behind her back with a silk stocking, a second stocking tied around her neck, and her mouth stuffed with rags. Police said her nose had been broken.

Chief Romer said crocheting found on the arm of a living room chair indicated Mrs. Beal had been pursuing this hobby when she was attacked and beaten. Her husband, who is a mail department foreman for the Illinois Central railroad at the Roosevelt rd. station, first reported her missing to police, but before they arrived he found her body under a mass of rugs, bedclothes, and dresser drawers.

Separated from Wife

Police said Pasco is married but separated from his wife and two children, who are living in Chicago. Pasco has a police record dating back to 1938, when he was fined and sentenced to 180 days in jail in Hammond for petty larceny. He spent another 90 days in jail at Hammond in 1943 for petty larceny, and in 1945 he was sentenced to six months on the Illinois penal farm at Vandalia for disorderly conduct in Joliet. He was picked up twice in Hammond for violation of the selective service law.

An inquest into Mrs. Beal's death will be held at 10:30 a. m. tomorrow in the county morgue.

9006

Kidnaped Girl, 2, Is Raped, Murdered

Body Found Near Cornfield

Sioux City, Iowa, July 11.—The body of curly-haired Donna Sue Davis, her pink pajama tops wound around her neck, was found crumpled at the edge of a cornfield late today.

The 2-year-old girl had been snatched from her crib within minutes after being tucked in bed by her mother last night.

Police Chief James O'Keefe said the child "definitely had been raped."

The body, which bore marks of a beating about the head, was discovered on the Ernest Oehlerking farm, about a mile south of South Sioux City, Neb., across the Missouri River from here.

The child's pajama bottoms, a diaper, and rubber pants were found by Oehlerking and three boys as they rode on a tractor. He immediately returned to his farmhouse and called police.

Children See Body

Weanwhile, his wife and her sister-in-law — accompanied by their seven daughters aged 1 to 13—set out along the gravel road in a car in an effort to find the body.

About half a mile down the road, the children spotted the body and screamed in horror. The spot where the body was found was only 200 yards south of the Oehlerking farmhouse.

Neighbors of the child's parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Davis, a family of modest means, reported seeing a man prowling about the Davis duplex last night but didn't get a good look at him. Another neighbor said he pursued a man running with a bundle down an alley near the Davis home but failed to catch him.

Oehlerking said a nearby farmer told of hearing a car on the road by his farm about midnight last night. But again the occupant was not seen.

Blow on Head Fatal

Dr. Thomas L. Coriden, Woodbury County coroner, said Donna Sue was killed by a severe blow on the head. He confirmed the girl had been sexually assaulted.

Little Donna, who weighs only 21 pounds, was helped into her pajamas at 9:30 last night and Mrs. Davis tucked her into the crib.

Then Mrs. Davis turned off the bedroom light and went into the kitchen to read the paper. The Davises' other children, Mary Claire, 11, and Timmy, 7, were asleep in another room. Davis, a railroad clerk, was in the parlor watching television.

About 30 minutes later, the father, ready to retire, went to the bedroom, which they shared with Donna, and found the crib empty except for a teddy bear and rubber doll which always went to bed with the child.

"Where's Donna?" Davis asked.

Even before Mrs. Davis hurried to his side, he said, he saw the window screen gone and knew the answer. The window of the first-floor bedroom is only 4 feet from the ground.

Body of Girl, 2, Found Beaten and Assaulted

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PROWLER SPOTTED

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WEIGHED 21 POUNDS

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Little Donna, who weighed only 21 pounds, was helped into her thin summer pajamas at 9:30 last night and as Mrs. Davis tucked her into the crib she repeated the familiar saying:

"Three to get ready and four to go to bed."

Then Mrs. Davis turned off the bedroom light and went into the kitchen to read the paper. The Davises' other children, Mary Claire, 11, and Timmy, 7, were asleep in another room. Davis, a railroad clerk, was in the parlor watching television.

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27h(2) 1955

KENTUCKY

8984

Youth Charged With Rape, Two Assaults

Courier Journal

Broke Into Apartment Of Woman, Police Say

27h (2)

An 18-year-old youth was arrested yesterday on charges of rape and two assaults with intent to rob. Mon. 2/14/55

Robert M. Williams, 532 S. Eighth, was arrested at his home. Police gave this story: P. 1

Williams forced open the door of a 45-year-old woman's apartment on West Madison Street shortly after midnight Saturday and raped her, police said. She escaped and fled, Williams chasing her in his bare feet through the back yard.

Met Man In Yard

In the yard he met a 55-year-old man who lives in the rear of the house. Police said Williams beat the man, forced him into his room, and searched it for money. He found none.

Then Williams entered the room of another roomer on the second floor. He beat this man, too, and demanded money, police said.

But the man picked up a stick and swung at Williams. Williams turned and dived through the shut window, landing on the ground, about 12 feet below. He fled—still barefoot.

Police said Williams admitted he was "full of whisky" at the time. He will be arraigned in Police Court this morning.

27h(2) 1955

KENTUCKY

9007

3 Held to Grand Jury In Harlan Rape Case

Courier-Journal 7/12
Louisville, Ky.
July 23, 55

Special to The Courier-Journal

Harlan, Ky., July 22.—Three young men were held to the grand jury, one without bond, at their examining trial in County Court today on charges of raping a 24-year-old woman.

Eugene Kinder, Brookside, was ordered held without bond. Jimmy Works, 18, Ages, and Arthur Ellis, 24, Brookside, were allowed bond of $1,500 each. Kinder and Works had entered innocent pleas. Ellis admitted having relations with the woman, but he said she made no objections.

Rape charges against Charles Shell, 20, Brookside; Darrell Deaton, 23, Ages, and Eugene Brock, Ages, were dismissed on motion of County Attorney Cawood Smith.

Shell and Deaton were placed under $500 bond each to appear before the grand jury as witnesses. Brock was never arrested on the charge and his father said he was in Ohio.

The victim, from Evarts, testified she was raped by a "large number of men," but was uncertain of the number. She was unable to identify any of the suspects except Kinder. She said the assaults took place Saturday night on the mountain at Brookside and later at Coxton.

Two juveniles who pleaded guilty in the same case have been committed to the Youth Authority Commission.

Warrants for several others have been issued but sheriff's deputies have been unable to locate them.

Rape Attempt Made, Girl Slayer Is Quoted

Courier-Journal
Sat., 11-26-55

Policeman Says 15-Year-Old Defendant Told Him Combs Tried To Attack Her Near Hazard

Special to The Courier-Journal

P. 1-6

Hazard, Ky., Nov. 25.—A policeman testified today that Jennie Young told him she shot Irvine Combs as Combs tried to rape her in a parked car.

Louisville, Ky.

Patrolman Jesse Feltner said the 15-year-old girl made the statement after he and another officer had arrested her at her home and started to take her to the scene of the killing.

The slaying occurred November 3 in front of a liquor store operated by Combs, 25, just outside the city limits.

Among 15 Witnesses

Feltner was among 15 Commonwealth witnesses to testify in the murder trial of the girl.

At the close of Commonwealth evidence, defense attorneys C. A. Noble, Jr., and Duff Arnett moved for a directed verdict of acquittal. Judge Courtney Wells overruled the motion.

Court was then recessed until 7 p.m., when defense testimony was to begin.

Commonwealth evidence attempted to show that Combs was asleep at the time he was killed and that neither he nor the girl had been drinking whisky or beer. Officers earlier had quoted her as saying both were drunk.

Victim's Father Testifies

Several witnesses, including Combs' father, McKinley Combs, testified the victim was sitting in a relaxed position behind the steering wheel of his car when his body was found about 4 a.m. They said his eyes were closed.

The Commonwealth also tried to show the girl had called Combs at the liquor store and made a date with him the night of the slaying.

Mrs. Hindalee Sizemore, for whom the girl had been babysitting that night, said she called Combs and asked him not to pick up the girl. She said Combs came for the girl anyway.

Other witnesses, including Hazard Police Chief Bob Heath, testified the girl admitted to them she had killed Combs.

Heath said she told him she fired the .38-caliber pistol, which belonged to Combs, because "she said he tried to make her hug him (Combs)."

Among the witnesses saying Combs may have been asleep was Coroner George Archer. But on cross-examination, he said the bullet that entered Combs' temple tore through muscles controlling the eyelids, causing them to close.

Two other girls said they had dated Combs. One of them, Margie Sizemore, 18, said Combs always kept a pistol in the front seat with them when they were out.

Arbitrary Action Alleged

Earlier, Noble asked the court to refer Jennie Young to the Kentucky Youth Authority.

The attorney accused County Judge J. H. Banks of being arbitrary in sending the case to Circuit Court, saying:

"Judge Banks considered it a hot potato because he was campaign manager for Happy Chandler and wanted to get rid of it as fast as he could."

Banks waived his jurisdiction as a juvenile judge before the girl was indicted.

Noble also asked the court to allow the girl to be examined by a psychiatr[illegible] Both motions were overrule[illegible]

9008

Couple Sues For $15,000, Charges Rape

Courier
Pittsburgh
Pa.
4-18-55

BATON ROUGE—Denoy Miles and his wife, Mrs. Ollie Mae Miles, have filed a $15,415 damage suit against Lawrence V. George of Scotlandville who, they charge, criminally assaulted Mrs. Miles April 7, 1954 as Mr. Miles was getting food from a restaurant on Scenic Highway near the Jenkins Lumber Yard.

The petition charges that George raped Mrs. Miles after she and her husband had frequented several night spots in East and West Baton Rouge and he went to get the food.

Following the attack George allegedly offered to give the couple two rental houses if they would agree not to report the incident to police.

Mrs. Miles is asking $5,000 for past physical pain and suffering; $5000 for future physical pain and suffering, and $5000 for mental pain and anguish. Further her husband is asking $415 for medical expenses.

9809

Girls, 15, accuse man of attack

● J.C. Robinson, rich packer, being held on similar sex charges

BALTIMORE

A new charge of carnal knowledge involving another 15-year-old girl was lodged against James C. Robinson, wealthy white canned goods distributor, in a presentment handed the grand jury, Tuesday.

The 57-year-old head of the J. C. Robinson Co., 200 block E. Pleasant St., is currently free under $1,000 bail awaiting trial on a similar charge also involving a girl, 15, upon which he was indicted on Feb. 11.

That case came before Judge Herman Moser in Criminal Court on Feb. 15, but was postponed upon the request of defense counsel.

In the meantime, the State's Attorney's office continued its investigation which resulted in the additional charge.

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IN THE FIRST case, Mr. Robinson was given a preliminary hearing on Jan. 18 in Central Police Court, where he was held for grand jury action.

The State's Attorney's office by-passed a preliminary hearing on the second case and took the matter straight to the grand jury on what is known as a "special."

The AFRO was told that the girls involved are close friends. The first girl in the first case lives with her mother in the 2200 block W. North Ave.

The second girl is now at the Barret School for Girls in Glen Burnie. Mr. Robinson is accused of having been intimate with her on Nov. 30, 1954.

• • •

THE SECOND girl is named "Carolyn." In the Feb. 15th edition of the AFRO, there was presented an exclusive new angle to the Feb. 6 slaying of Carolyn Wasilewski, which connected the Polish girl and her young "drape" friends with high school girls in uptown Baltimore.

It was revealed in the story that the pretty 14-year-old Southern High School pupil and an attractive colored girl also named "Carolyn," once shared the same white "drape" boyfriend.

The AFRO also reported exclusively in its Jan. 29th edition that Mr. Robinson was arrested when police picked the first girl up for questioning about the Wasilewski case.

Extensive interrogation revealed that the only knowledge the girl had of the murder was what she had read about in the papers.

However, information was received concerning Mr. Robinson and this was turned over to Policewoman Cornelia Lake Smith of the Southwestern District.

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AN OFFICAL report filed by the policewoman of her investigation of the first case, listed these points:

1. Mr. Robinson and the girl had been intimate on at least four occasions in his Pleasant St. office. (Editor's Note: The girl reportedly was hired to clean offices at the Robinson Co.)

2. No force was used and the girl was paid as much as $20 in addition to receiving gifts of perfume and candy.

3. A postcard signed "J.C." was sent to the girl from Bermuda. (Editor's Note: Her mother told the AFRO that she thought "J.C." was a girl.)

At the preliminary hearing, Mr. Robinson admitted sending the card.

"I send cards to everyone," he told the court. The businessman denied any intimacies.

Man Is Sought In Girl Attack

A 7-year-old Prince Georges County girl was molested near the scene of yesterday's double murder just after the hunt for the killers got under way. The search was widened immediately to include the molester.

The girl was stripped of her clothing by a man reportedly wearing a white mask, and an attempt was made to criminally assault her.

The attack took place about 1 p.m. in a wooded area in the rear of her home on East-West highway, near Riggs road.

Police say there apparently was no connection between the attempted rape and the killing of the two teen-age girls in a park adjacent to Lane Manor.

According to police, the girl, her 8-year-old brother and another 7-year-old boy were playing along Sligo Creek, about 200 yards from the girl's home, when the man approached them. The children said they started to flee, but the man grabbed the girl and tore off her clothes while the others ran on.

The brother, police said, ran home and told his mother his sister had been kidnaped. The mother ran to the woods and found her daughter standing on the far side of Sligo Creek, nude except for her shoes and socks.

Police said the man apparently fled because of the children's shouts.

The girl was taken to the Washington Sanitarium in Takoma Park where she was treated and released. Officials there said they could find nothing to indicate the girl had been injured. They said there apparently was an attempt to assault her.

Police are looking for a white man wearing an Army-type fatigue cap and an Army "Eisenhower" jacket. The lookout described him as about 6 feet tall, of medium build and between 20 and 25 years of age. Persons near the scene about that time told police they saw a man of this description with a white handkerchief over the lower part of his face.

Two girls tell jury of assault

● Patients at City Hospitals file charges

● 3 incidents occurred four weeks ago

BALTIMORE

A 15-year-old tubercular patient at City Hospitals has charged a white resident doctor of raping and assaulting her by placing his hands on her.

The physician, Dr. William Kessler, 30, was presented to the Grand Jury Monday afternoon and released on $5,000 bond set by the state's attorney's office.

Dr. Kessler has also been accused of assault by placing his hands on a 16-year-old bedridden patient at the hospital.

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ACCORDING to the charges, the 15-year-old girl allegedly was assaulted on Tuesday, July 12 and raped on Saturday, July 16. The 16-year-old girl was allegedly assaulted on Sunday, July 10.

The 15-year-old girl's mother told the AFRO: "I was terribly angry when I heard about it. My daughter is very upset over it and she wants to come home.

"I never dreamed things like that happened in hospitals," she protested.

The mother, who was the first to learn of the incident, said that her daughter was attacked while in a weakened condition. The teenager had undergone an appendectomy shortly before the assault, the mother said.

"My daughter told me that it happened while the doctor was examining her," the mother reported.

• • •

THE MOTHER, who is in the process of moving her seven other children from a crowded home in Northwest Baltimore to a project on the outskirts of town, told the AFRO that she did not know that her daughter had been taken to the courthouse Monday to testify before the Grand Jury.

According to courthouse attaches, the teenager, "extremely tall for her age" was escorted to the courthouse by two police officers.

Doctors would not permit the other teenager to be moved from her bed for the hearing.

DR. KESSLER was picked up at the hospital for investigation Saturday morning. A hearing at the Central Police Station was waived and his case was presented "as a special" to the Grand Jury.

A native of Cincinnati, Ohio, Dr. Kessler came to Baltimore in July 1954 where he was appointed as first assistant resident doctor at City Hospitals. He was reappointed to this position in January 1955.

He was graduated from the University of Cincinnati Medical School in 1952 and served a year's internship at the University of Wisconsin Hospital before coming to a hospital in Cleveland where he served a year as a resident.

An army veteran, he served three and a half years with the infantry. He is being represented by Hyman Ginsberg, attorney. James W. Murphy, assistant state's attorney will prosecute the case.

9010

Charge White Youth With Rape Of Girl, 15

DETROIT. — (ANP) — A 22-year-old white youth was charged last week with raping a 15-year-old Negro baby-sitter following a poker game at the home where the girl was employed.

According to the girl, the attack occurred last Feb. 22. The girl said the youth, Antonio Cassone, was a friend of her employer and often spent the night in the home. She said on the night of the supposed assault he came over and asked her to play cards with him. The girl said they played poker.

Later, she said, she told Cassone that she was sleepy and retired to a couch where she slept. She said he went to another bedroom but later came to the couch and forced her to have relations with him.

She quoted him as saying, "Don't tell any one about this. If you do—there's nothing that can be done to me because I have done the same thing to two other girls."

The girl said that she was at first afraid to tell her mother. She refused to return to the job, however, informing her mother she was ill with a headache.

The youth denied the charges but did admit playing cards with the girl. Police said he refused to take a lie-detector test.

Crippled Girl, 8, Raped and Slain

KALAMAZOO, Mich., June 2 (AP)—An autopsy showed today that little Jeannie Singleton had been raped, beaten and apparently choked to death by a sex deviate.

The bruised body of the 8-year-old school girl was found late yesterday in a lonely pine woods 15 miles north of Kalamazoo.

Jeannie, left lame by an attack of rheumatic fever four years ago, was last seen 10 days resting on a curb a half block from her home here. She was returning from school. Relatives said Jeannie had a sunny disposition and "a smile for everybody."

She was the third little girl to die at the hands of a killer in Michigan in the last four months.

A conference of law enforcement officers was called here today to intensify the search for Jeannie's killer.

"The killer is going to strike again, that's what we're worried about," said Glenn Hammel, Kalamazoo police chief deputy.

Five farm children, playing in an isolated area near the village of Doster, stumble onto Jeannie's body.

Physicians who performed the autopsy said the child probably was killed the same day she was abducted—May 23.

Nine-year-old Kathleen McLaughlin was stabbed and beaten to death February 17 in a Detroit suburb. A 16-year-old youth confessed the crime and is awaiting sentence for murder.

On March 31 the body of 7-year-old Barbara Gaca, a Detroit school girl, was found on a dump near Pontiac. She had been beaten and raped. Police are still searching for her killer.

Michigan girl is found slain

KALAMAZOO, Mich., June 2—(AP)—An autopsy showed today that little Jeannie Singleton had been raped, beaten and apparently choked to death by a sex deviate.

The body of the 8-year-old school girl was found late yesterday in a lonely pine woods 15 miles north of Kalamazoo.

Jeannie, left lame by an attack of rheumatic fever four years ago, was last seen 10 days ago resting on a curb a half block from her home here. She was returning from school. Relatives said Jeannie had a sunny disposition and "a smile for everybody."

She was the third little girl to die at the hands of a brutal killer in Michigan in the past four months.

A conference of law enforcement officers was called here today to intensify the search for Jeannie's killer.

"The killer is going to strike again, that's what we're worried about," said Glenn Hammel, Kalamazoo police chief deputy.

Mrs. Steve Singleton, the girl's mother, collapsed at the news of her death and was placed under a doctor's care. The Singleton family of eight lives in a modest home. Both parents work.

15-YEAR-OLD BABY SITTER RAPED BY YOUTH AFTER POKER GAME

Attacker Admits He Has Committed Assault Upon Two Other Young Girls

DEFENDANT REFUSES TO TAKE LIE DETECTOR TEST

DETROIT — (ANP) — A 22-year-old white youth was charged last week with raping a 15-year-old Negro baby-sitter following a poker game at the home where the girl was employed.

According to the girl, the attack occurred last Feb. 22. The girl said the youth, Antonio Cassone, was a friend of her employer and often spent the night in the home. She said on the night of the supposed assault he came over and asked her to play cards with him. The girl said they played poker.

Later, she said, she told Cassone that she was sleepy and retired to a couch where she slept. She said he went to another bedroom but later came to the couch and forced her to have relations with him.

She quoted him as saying, "Don't tell any one about this. If you do—there's nothing that can be done to me because I have done the same thing to two other girls."

The girl said that she was at first afraid to tell her mother. She refused to return to the job, however, informing her mother she was ill with a headache.

The youth denied the charges but did admit playing cards with the girl. Police said he refused to take a lie-detector test.

BODY OF MISSING WOMAN IS FOUND

Meridian Resident Beaten, Assaulted

(Special to The Times-Picayune)

MERIDIAN, Miss., June 5—The body of a 60-year-old Meridian woman, who had been missing from her home since Monday, was found in a wooded section off Hwy. 80 about four miles west of her home about 7 p. m. Saturday.

Officers said that Mrs. W. T. Gilbert had been beaten about the head and sexually assaulted, and that a valuable wrist watch and her purse which reportedly contained $1000 in cash was missing. An expensive diamond ring was still on the woman's hand, however, the officers said.

H. C. Slay, assistant district director of the highway patrol, said the body was found by a man whose name was not immediately available, who lives in the area. Slay said the body was definitely identified as that of Mrs. Gilbert by Mrs. Joe Fairchild, a cousin of the dead woman.

Mrs. Gilbert, who lived alone at a combination home and grocery store which she operated, left home Monday to go to the Mississippi State Hospital at Whitfield to obtain employment as a nurse. Mrs. Whitfield secured the job and was due to report Monday for work. She was reportedly last seen alive in Whitfield by a city bus driver, who told officers that he thinks Mrs. Gilbert rode his bus from the hospital to the bus station.

Meridian police chief A. O. Booker and Lauderdale deputy sheriff Harry Hughes are working with Slay in the investigation.

Funeral services were held in Stephen's funeral home Sunday afternoon. Burial was in Memorial Park cemetery.

Survivors include two sisters and three brothers.

WOMAN'S BODY FOUND IN WOODED SECTION

Mississippian Robbed, Beaten—Missing Six Days

MERIDIAN, Miss., June 5.—(UP)—Officers theorized Sunday a 65-year-old registered nurse, found in a clump of bushes on a "lovers lane" Saturday night, was criminally assaulted, robbed and slain.

Police and highway patrolmen found the decomposed body of Mrs. W. T. Gilbert of Meridian, who had been missing for six days. Relatives identified the body from her ring and shoes. Her purse, reportedly containing about $1,000 and her watch, was missing.

Deputy Sheriff Harry Hughes said it was apparent Mrs. Gilbert, who lived alone here had been assaulted and murdered. Marks on the skull indicated she may have been bludgeoned, he said, but the condition of the body made it impossible to determine exact cause of death.

Mrs. Gilbert was last seen Monday, boarding a bus bound for Jackson, after she accepted a job at the State Mental Hospital at Whitfield, a few miles east of Jackson.

It was not explained why Mrs. Gilbert carried $1,000 with her.

Her body was found at dusk Saturday off old Highway 80 about four miles west of Meridian.

10-Yr.-Old Attacked In Miss.

JACKSON, Miss.—A 24-year-old white man, Jack Cruggs of Oklahoma City, was charged with the attempted assault of a 10-year-old Negro girl beneath a truck at the State Fair for Negroes.

Police said Cruggs held a knife on the girl, threatening to cut her neck if she opened her mouth. Cruggs was pulled from beneath the truck by two detectives searching for the girl, reported missing by her grandfather.

White Man Charged With Rape Of Ten Year Old Negro Girl Here

Jackson, Miss., Oct. 18 — A local daily newspaper reported here Tuesday that a 24-year-old white worker at the State Fair was arrested Monday night, charged with investigation of rape of a ten-year-old Negro girl.

Det. Lt. E. L. Browne identified the man as Jack Cruggs, white, of Oklahoma City, and said he was taken into custody by Det. R. C. Bell and F. L. Freeman after the officers caught him while he was attempting to assault the girl under a truck parked on the fairgrounds.

The two officers, along with Det. Sgt. J. B. Hines and Officer B. H. AcAlphin, had been searching for the girl, who had earlier been reported missing by her grandfather.

The girl, who came to the fair from her home in Mendenhall, told Detective Bell that she and her younger sister had gone to a restroom and were on their way back to the midway when Cruggs stopped them and told them that he had some movies he wanted to show them. He led them toward a car, and the smaller girl ran.

Detective Bell said Cruggs held the ten-year-old to keep her from running, and carried her to the truck.

His words to the officers, upon his being discovered, were: "Why don't you go ahead and kill me? I'm no good."

for such a suit to be brought on the bond of a sheriff for the wrongful act of a deputy. The company also said that Deputy Sheriff N. F. Black was acting on his own and not in pursuance of his duties.

Sheriff Getcher asserted that the language in the suit by Mrs. Ruthie Mae Miller Luster, asking $250,000 damage, is "couched in such revolting and indecent terms as to greatly offend the dignity of the court and contaminate its public records with indescribable filth."

Mrs. Luster has contended that Deputy Sheriff Black, under the guise of arresting her Aug. 28, 1954, assaulted her causing permanent injuries.

sion here.

William H. Maynard, attorney for Mrs. Gotcher and for the Insurance [illegible] Company, said that all three defendants contributed to the settlement.

The suit was filed on behalf of Ruthie Mae Miller Luster, who charged deprivation of civil rights in connection with an encounter with Mr. Black on the night of Aug. 28, 1954.

The woman claimed that the former deputy had pretended to arrest her for not having a driver's license but instead violated her person by assault and battery and assault to commit rape.

Abe Sherman, attorney for the plaintiff, asked about the allegations in the declaration, said the woman suffered no bodily injuries.

The plaintiff is the mother of four children and lives a few miles east of Clarksdale.

Clarksdale Negro Woman Gets $5000 Settlement In Suit Against Former Sheriff

CLARKSDALE, Miss., May 9—(Special)—The $250,000 suit brought by a Coahoma County Negro woman against Mrs. Miriam M. Gotcher, sheriff, former deputy N. F. Black, and the U. S. Fidelity and Guaranty Co., has been settled for $5,000, attorneys for the parties revealed today.

An order of dismissal will be entered in federal court, now in ses-

Deputy Sheriff Charged

Seek Dismissal Of Assault Suit

CLARKSDALE, Miss.—(ANP)—Mrs. Miriam M. Gotcher, sheriff of Coahoma County and the U. S. Fidelity and Guaranty Company asked a Federal judge to dismiss charges against a deputy sheriff who reportedly assaulted a Negro woman while pretending to arrest her.

The U. S. Fidelity and Guaranty Company, which bonded Mrs. Getcher, cited seven reasons for dismissal, among them that there is no authorization

Ex-Convict Arrested; Charged With Assault On 12-Year Old

A Joplin former convict accused of impregnating a 12-year-old girl was named in warrants issued by Assistant Circuit Attorney Edward Lamar last Thursday charging him with statutory rape.

Leroy Good, a 46-year-old painter, has admitted being intimate with the girl on two occasions, police said. He has been positively identified by the victim.

A physician at Homer G. Phillips Hospital who examined the girl stated that she showed signs of early pregnancy.

Good was arrested last Wednesday at his home, 1905 North Thirteenth street, by Special Officers Alphonso Kidd and Herman Saunders and Patrolman Ben J. Thompson, a Ninth District juvenile officer. He was booked suspected of statutory rape and contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

Police said Good, who made up to $24 per day as a union painter, also had an affair with the victim's 16-year-old sister.

A warrant charging Good with contributing to the delinquency of a minor in his romance with the older girl was refused by the Circuit Attorney's office. The 16-year-old girl has served time as an inmate at Tipton, Mo., as a result of a similar incident.

The victim was interviewed by Patrolmen Clem Billingsly and Lamar Corbett, juvenile officers.

She told officers she met Good last year and her older sister introduced him as her boyfriend. The child related that in September she and her sister went to Good's house to clean house. She said the older girl urged her to be intimate with the man that day.

Again in December she said she went to Good's home alone and had a second affair with him. The child said when the older sister learned of this she told their mother.

Police said Good occasionally gave money to the girls and that he also bought them a television set.

Iowa Farmhand Arrested In Missouri For Rape-Murder Of Two-Year-Old Girl

JOPLIN, Mo., July 13 (AP)—Acting Detective Capt. John Showers said late today Audrey Brandt, 42-year-old Laporte, Iowa, farmhand had admitted raping and beating 2-year-old Donna Sue Davis of Sioux City, Iowa. The girl's body was found near there Monday.

Shoers said Brandt had made an oral statement admitting he abducted the girl from her crib Sunday night but said the man claimed he did not kill her.

Descriptions Check

Showers said the man's description of the abduction and rape seemed to check with known facts in the slaying. He said the man's story at times was incoherent and rambling, however.

The confession allegedly was made after nine hours of questioning.

Brandt was arrested here last night after a truck driver told police a hitchhiker fitted the description of a man wanted in the case.

The blue-eyed child, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Davis of Sioux City, was found in a farm field near South Sioux City, Neb., just across the Missouri River from Sioux City.

Beaten Savagely

She had been beaten savagely about the head.

Brandt, a slight, stooped man, told police he didn't know why he took the girl, Showers said.

The truck driver, who first notified police, said he picked Brandt up in Springfield, Mo., and let him out just inside of town. The truck-driver, who did not identify himself, said Brandt told him he had just come from Iowa a few days before.

Police picked up Brandt at a street corner a few minutes later.

Showers said Brandt told officers he once had paid a $100 fine in Iowa for molesting a minor.

This is the story Brandt told, according to Showers:

He passed the Davis home about sundown Sunday, then went to the Nebraska side of the river where he dropped his suitcase in a cornfield. He then went back to the Iowa side and passed the Davis residence once again.

Then Brandt removed the screen to the child's room, took Donna Sue from her crib and went back across the river.

It was there, Showers quoted Brandt, that he raped the girl. When she began screaming, Brandt said, he hit her several times.

Changed Clothes

He then walked about a half-mile where he changed clothes and began hitchhiking.

The girl was buried in Sioux City this morning. Officers said evidence indicated the only motive in the case was sexual sadism.

The FBI had issued "John Doe" warrants in the search for the killer, enabling any law officer anywhere in the country to arrest any suspect and hold him for the FBI.

Showers said Brandt at first denied he had anything to do with the abduction. After several hours of questioning, Showers said, Brandt admitted seeing the girl, but said she came walking toward him in the Nebraska cornfield.

When arrested Brandt was wearing dirty overalls and a blue work shirt. In his suitcase officers found several articles of clothing, including a white T shirt. A neighbor of the Davis' told officers he had seen a man near the home wearing a white T shirt and sun tan trousers.

Trousers Thrown Away

Showers quoted Brandt as saying he threw away the trousers he wore during the attack when he changed clothes.

During questioning, Brandt appeared nervous and smoked many cigarettes.

When he first walked past the Davis home, he noticed a woman sitting on the porch, Showers quoted Brandt. The man gave no reason for recrossing to the Iowa side.

In Des Moines, Iowa, Chief R. W. Nebergall, of the Iowa Bureau of Criminal Investigation, said his files showed Audrey Brandt, 42, of Laporte City, Iowa, had been fined $100 and spent 30 days in jail in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in 1947, on a charge of molesting children in theaters.

Another Arrest

He also was arrested in Waterloo, Iowa, last April 24 on a charge of child molestation, Nebergall said, but was released.

Brandt previously had been picked up for investigation in morals cases in Lincoln, Neb., in 1944 and Des Moines in 1949, but was released in both instances, Nebergall said.

naping and raping of the child last Sunday night over an automobile radio while riding in the vicinity of Sioux City.

Police continued to hold him on a vagrancy charge and continued to check into the possibility he may have had some connection with the affair. They also awaited results of a comparison of Brandt's fingerprints with those found in the baby's room.

Tale Not Accurate

He was arrested by Joplin police after a truck driver, with whom he had hitched a ride, became suspicious and told police Brandt's appearance corresponded to the description of the man believed to have kidnaped the child.

Showers said he was inclined to believe Brandt didn't know much about the affair. There were several points on which his story did not jibe with the known facts.

Brandt repudiated his statement shortly after he was questioned by Leo Ross, an F.B.I. agent who had been working on the case at Sioux City. Ross brought a brief case full of data to Joplin to check Brandt's story.

Farm Hand Now Denies Raping Child

Joplin, Mo., July 14 (AP)—Audrey Brandt, 42-year-old farm hand who clung 23 hours to a story that he beat and raped 2-year-old Donna Sue Davis at Sioux City, Iowa, told police late today his account was a hoax.

Brandt told John Showers, acting detective captain, that he had heard an account of the kidnaping and raping of the child last Sunday night over an automobile radio while riding in the vicinity of Sioux City.

Police continued to hold him on a vagrancy charge and continued to check into the possibility he may have had some connection with the affair. They also awaited results of a comparison of Brandt's fingerprints with those found in the baby's room.

Tale Not Accurate

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Brandt repudiated his statement shortly after he was questioned by Leo Ross, an F.B.I. agent who had been working on the case at Sioux City. Ross brought a brief case full of data to Joplin to check Brandt's story.

Girl prisoner says guard seduced her

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (ANP)—A 17-year-old girl from Kansas City, an inmate of the State Women's Prison, has accused a guard of seducing her, and says he is the father of her unborn child.

The girl has been in state institutions since 1954, having spent time in two state schools and finally in the women's prison after authorities determined that she was "incorrigible."

County Prosecutor James E. Riley said that he could do nothing about the situation because the girl was 16 years old when the incident first occurred and she had submitted without force.

8994

Girl, 4, Victim In Sex Slaying

Herald V. 22-A
Miami Fla.
7-9-53

New Hampshire Youth Leads Officers to Grave in Cellar

MANCHESTER, N. H. —(AP)—The nude body of blonde, blue-eyed, 4-year-old Patricia Johnson — sexually abused and slain with an ax—was found Friday in a shallow grave in the cellar of the house next door to her home.

Hillsborough county solicitor Conrad Danais said that next-door neighbor, Walter Bourque, Jr., 17, a shoe worker, admitted attacking the little girl sexually and then killing her when she said: "I'm going to tell my mother."

27h(2)

Little Patricia had been the object of an intensive search since she last was seen Wednesday playing in front of their home. Police said the slender, dark haired Bourque had been a volunteer searcher for the girl.

Danais quoted Bourque as saying he lured the child into the cellar of his home about 3:30 p.m., Wednesday.

Police Chief Francis J. McGranaghan said young Bourque made his confession to two police lieutenants — Alex Hould and William Kelley—who were making a house-to-house neighborhood search for Patricia.

When the two officers questioned Bourque, McGranaghan said, the youth promptly told his story of the slaying. Then, the police chief said, he led authorities to the body.

McGranaghan said the ax used in the slaying was found sticking into a chopping block in the cellar. He said Patricia's brown shorts—all the clothing she wore when she disappeared were found buried under the cellar stairs.



—Associated Press Wirephoto
WALTER BOURQUE
... quick confession



PATRICIA JOHNSON
... murdered with ax

ADMITS KILLING, CHILD

Commercial Appeal Memphis Tenn.

17-Year-Old Made Improper Advances On Girl, 4

MANCHESTER, N. H., July 8. —(INS)—Blond, 4-year-old Patricia Ann Johnson Friday was found axed to death in a cellar grave in the home of a neighbor, ending a huge two-day search of the city.

Jamaica Long

Police were led to the murder scene by slim, good-looking Walter Bourque Jr., 17, Patsy's next door neighbor, who confessed he killed her when she threatened to tell her father that he had tried to attack her sexually.

7-9-53

The body of the blue-eyed youngster was buried in a grave three feet long and 2½ feet deep.

Her skull had been smashed by two terrific blows from the blunt end of an ax. Her spine had been severed by a blow in the back with the sharp end of the axe.

27h(2)

Bourque, a shoe worker on vacation, had participated in the search for Patsy. Detectives Alex Hould and William Kelly became suspicious of him because of the vagueness in some of the replies he gave to a routine check of neighbors.

He was taken to police headquarters and after an hour of questioning admitted the slaying.

27h(2) 1955

NEW JERSEY

9013

Slayer of N. J. Trooper Killed in Rape Attempt

Herald Tribune 11-3

N.Y. Mirror 11-3

Sun 11-3-55

ASBURY PARK, N. J., Nov. 2.—A gunman fresh from the murder of a state trooper was killed early this morning when he attempted to rape the wife of a motel owner. Firing the shot was the husband who burst his bonds, grabbed a rifle and fired just as his wife was being carried unconscious into a bedroom.

The dead man was identified by police as Sammy Alvarez, twenty-seven, of 1108 Fulton St., Brooklyn, who an hour earlier had fatally wounded State Trooper John Anderson, thirty-six, of 18 Williams St., Sayreville, N. J. The trooper was shot for stopping Alvarez on suspicion of driving a stolen car.

That shooting occurred on the Garden State Parkway. Alvarez, who was driving a stolen car and who had just robbed a gasoline station at Raritan Township, managed to grab officer Anderson's service revolver from its holster and fire four shots into him.

The dying officer radioed Alvarez's description and shortly the entire area was cut off by a cordon of police. Alvarez abandoned his car and fled on foot. Presently he arrived at the Fernwood Motel, Route 66, in Neptune Township.

At gunpoint he forced the motel owner and his wife to obey his commands. He first had Mrs. Victoria Whritenour, forty-five, bind her husband, Edward, forty-eight, with string. Then he pushed the husband into an unlocked closet.

For forty-five minutes then, while Mrs. Whritenour screamed and fought, he molested her. She fainted. He picked her up and started to carry her to a bedroom.

27h(2)

Just then Mr. Whritenour broke free. Quickly he loaded a .300 Savage hunting rifle. He jumped from the closet. Alvarez dropped the woman. Mr. Whritenour fired.

Later, when police arrived and tol dhim who the gunman was, Mr. Whritenour said: "I just pulled up my gun and let fly. It knocked his head right off."

9014

Intruder Attacks Woman, Pushes Baby Into Water

A self-announced rapist invaded a Queens home yesterday and pushed a six-weeks-old baby into eight inches of water in the kitchen sink while fighting the mother.

The mother, Mrs. Irene Speckmeister, nineteen, screamed, bit and scratched the attacker until he fled. While she fought him the baby fell face down in the water.

Mrs. Speckmeister, wife of a sailor, pulled the child, Robert, from the sink unconscious. As she held the baby two vacuum cleaner salesmen who had heard her screams rushed into the two-family house at 31-70 46th St., Astoria, and administered artificial respiration to the baby. Mrs. Speckmeister told police that she was bathing the baby shortly after noon when the kitchen door open and a man of about twenty-four entered. She said he was in black leather jacket, had a red bandana over the lower part of his face and said: "I'm going to rape you."

Mrs. Speckmeister said she screamed for help and the man pushed the child from her arms into the sink. "I screamed louder than ever and kicked and bit him," she said.

The man dragged her away from the sink, she added, and growled: "You made me do it."

He forced her into a hallway and tore at her clothes, she said, but she fought back until the man punched her in the stomach and ran from the house.

When she returned to the sink, she said: "I thought the baby was dead. He was face down. I don't know whether he was in the tub one minute or five, but it seemed like years."

The two salesmen, Edward Gannon, twenty-five, and Edwin Migliotty, twenty-three, said the baby was blue and limp. They put it on the sinkboard, they said, and began artificial respiration. They took turns and finally he began to sputter and cough and water ran from his mouth.

By this time police had arrived and the baby was taken to Boulevard Hospital, where last night his condition was reported "fine." Mr. Speckmeister is attached to the Naval shipyard in Brooklyn. The couple have a seventeen-month-old son, Richard, who was asleep in another room.

6th Civilian Arrested in Rape Probe of Jury in Queens Hears Runaway

By Milton Lewis

Another civilian—the sixth—was held yesterday on a charge of raping a fifteen-year-old runaway Queens girl.

As he was being arraigned in Manhattan Felony Court, the regular August Kings County Grand Jury began hearing testimony about the Coney Island scandal.

This involves two other fifteen-year-old runaways who are pregnant and who have named nine patrolmen and thirty civilians, including a waitress. The thirty-nine are under arrest on charges ranging from rape to impairing the morals of a minor.

Jury Hears Girl

One of the two pregnant girls was on the stand in the grand jury room most of yesterday and is expected to be recalled today by Assistant District Attorney Albert V. DeMeo. Her girl friend will also be asked to tell her story to the grand jury—which includes three women. If the nine police officers are called and refuse to waive immunity, they automatically forfeit their jobs.

On Tuesday, Police Commissioner Stephen P. Kennedy shifted twenty-three officers, up to the rank of inspector, out of the 15th Division in Coney Island as a result of the scandal. Yesterday Inspector William F. Patton, who had been transferred the day before from Brooklyn Borough Headquarters to take over the 15th dropped his papers.

Inspector Replaced

The retirement cannot become effective for a month. Inspector Patton, who was to replace Inspector Daniel Oliva, is only forty-eight years old and has been on the force twenty-six years. He lives at 2700 Marion Ave., the Bronx.

He was made captain when he was thirty-six. At the time, in 1943, he was the youngest man ever to reach that rank. A short time after he became inspector in September, 1952, he filed for retirement, but withdrew it before the thirty-day waiting period expired.

Mr. Kennedy refused comment on Inspector Patton's action of yesterday and replaced him with Inspector Richard R. Siegert jr., transferred from Manhattan East Headquarters.

Elevator Man Held

The sixth man arrested in the case involving the Queens girl is Frank Dello Iacono, twenty-seven, of 1233 Elder Ave., the Bronx. He was identified as the operator of an elevator at 1235 Park Ave., at 96th St., where two other young men shared an apartment and were arrested Tuesday on rape charges involving the same girl.

This girl and two seventeen-year-old runaways from an Albany institution have told police that their procurer was George Bellingham, alias George Ochs, twenty-seven. He is a convicted rapist and ex-convict on parole who escaped from the W. 20th St. Precinct early Monday before he was questioned. He is still missing.

A Bottle of Perfume

Iacono, who was released in $500 bond, had relations with the Queens girl in the basement of the Park Ave. building, police said, after she left the apartment of the two young men there. Police said he promised her a bottle of perfume worth $18 but reneged. Police said that Bellingham, who arranged the whole deal, subsequently got the bottle for the girl, who is 5 feet 8 inches tall and shapely.

The Queens girl is 5 feet 8 inches tall and looks several years older than fifteen. She comes from a broken home and is being kept in a children's shelter.

"An Easy Buck"

The girl told police that she fled her Jamaica home July 31, met Bellingham and accepted his proposition to "make an easy buck." The two seventeen-year-old girls told police the same story.

In the case of the latter two, a Manhattan rookie patrolman and a taxi driver are under arrest on charges of statutory rape. Statutory rape means having sexual intercourse with a female under eighteen, with or without her consent. If the man is over twenty-one it is a felony. If he is under twenty-one, it is a misdemeanor.

Rescues White Girl From White Sex Maniac

NEW YORK (CNS) — You always see the story of the Negro who attacks the white woman. This one is different. It involves a 14-year-old white girl, who struggled for nearly an hour on the roof of a New York High School—Evander Childs — with a white attacker. It was a young Negro who was the knight in shining armor. He punched the fiend, helped the victim Jo Rosenfeld to a taxi, gave her $2. for the fare and then left without waiting to be thanked.

The girl's mother told police the story: of how her daughter had stayed after school to help a teacher. At 4:30 in the afternoon, a white man about 22 years old pulled a knife on her and told her to "Follow me". He ordered her to undress and when she refused he stabbed her twice — in the abdomen. She fought until the Negro appeared, from seemingly no where.

27h(2) 1955

NEW YORK

9015

Rape Trial of Floyd Is Set for March 22

The rape trial of Robert Clark Floyd will be held March 22 in Fairfax Circuit Court without a jury.

Floyd, 42-year-old ex-convict who is charged with assaulting an 11-year-old girl at her Lake Barcroft home two months ago, stated at a hearing yesterday that he preferred to be tried by the court without a jury. He was advised that the penalty for a rape conviction is five years to death.

Yesterday's hearing was on a motion by John Alexander, court-appointed defense attorney, for a mental study of Floyd. He asked that Floyd be sent to the State hospital at Marion, Va., for mental observation before trial.

Floyd said he had been suffering severe headaches for six months. In reply to a question, he said he could not read or write and couldn't remmeber going to school very much.

Judge Paul Brown denied Mr. Alexander's petition. The judge commented that Floyd evidently had little or no education, but he saw no reason to doubt his sanity.

Woman Fights Off Brooklyn Rapist

While choir music from a nearby church filtered through the rain, a 36-year-old woman fought off a would-be rapist after an hour of terror in a lonely Brooklyn alley early today.

Mrs. Ana Felix of 203 Quincy St. was on her way home from her job in Manhattan shortly after midnight, police said.

She got off a bus at Gates and Bedford Aves. and was almost at her home when a young Negro came up behind her. He shoved a knife against her back, twisted her arm behind her and forced her into an alley between 179 and 181 Quincy St.

There, while a choir in the Christian Antioch Church at 179 Quincy St. sang hymns she could hear, Mrs. Felix fought valiantly and successfully against her attacker.

He repeatedly tried to assault her, she said, but never succeeded.

Finally, spotting a worshipper emerging from the church, Mrs. Felix screamed despite the knife the attacker had held at her throat during her ordeal.

He wrenched off her $15 wristwatch and fled. She made her way home where her husband, Roberto, called police.

An ambulance took Mrs. Felix to Cumberland Hospital, where she was treated and released.

Now Says She Lied to Save 2 Boys by Denying Assault

A middle-aged woman repudiated yesterday an earlier admission that she had lied when she accused two youths of attempting to rape her.

Mrs. Mary Gillan, in her fifties, of 34 W. 96th St., made the disavowal at the departmental trial of Sgt. William Carboy and Patrolman Edward [illegible], at Police Headquarters, on charges of "conduct prejudicial to the good order and efficiency of the department."

The officers arrested Victor Caban, seventeen, of 72 W. 88th St., and Enerio Santo, sixteen, of 180 W. 88th St., on June 25 after Mrs. Gillan complained that they had forced her into Central Park at knifepoint and made her take off her clothes.

Free After 5 Months

The boys were indicted for attempted rape, assault and violation of the Sullivan law on her complaint. After they had spent five months in jail the indictment was quashed when Mrs. Gillan told Assistant District Attorney Peter D. Andreoli she had been drinking and that she had imagined the whole incident.

"I' mnot a drinking woman," Mrs. Gillan told Deputy Police Commissioner Vincent L. Broderick yesterday. She said she had had "onl ya few beers" in her home and in the home of an acquaintance the night of the incident.

"Only Young Boys"

"Mr. Andreoli" she said, "advised me that they were only young boys and it would be easier for me if I said the boys were innocent and then they would go free."

She was preceded on the stand by the two boys and by James J. Brady, of Albany, who was in the park at the time. All three said the woman was drunk and had made advances.

Decision was reserved on the two officers and Deputy Commissioner Broderick said he would make his finding on the basis "of the facts" and "not on public clamor."

Bronx Man Held On Rape Charges

Guy Redding, twenty-three, of 1021 Boston Road, the Bronx, was held in $7,500 bail yesterday by Magistrate Nicholas Delagi in Bronx Magistrate's Court for a hearing July 18 on charges of robbery and rape.

Police said three Bronx women and a fifteen-year-old girl identified Redding as the man who in recent weeks forced them at knifepoint to accompany him to roofs in the Bronx where he raped and robbed them.

Redding, who had served a three-year term in prison for assault was identified by Rogue's Gallery pictures and was recognized from a wanted poster Friday night by Patrolmen Hannon and Eugene McAndrew, of the Bathgate Ave. station in the Bronx, in front of 1345 Washington Ave., the Bronx.

Hacker Admits Rape Slayings

JAMESTOWN, N. Y., July 13 (AP).—An unemployed taxi driver has admitted the rape slaying of his sister-in-law and her 19-month-old daughter, police say.

Joseph Reade, 26, who described himself as a "damn maniac," was to be arraigned in City Court today on two counts of first-degree murder.

The stocky, sandy-haired Reade signed a statement, police said last night, admitting he strangled and beat to death Mrs. Beverly Reade, 26, and her daughter, Cheryl Lynn, early yesterday.

"Inwardly I feel that I want to be the best Christian in the world and outwardly I'm a damn maniac," he told police. "I can't control the outward part and I don't know why."

Francis Reade, 24, the husband and father, found the nude bodies on a blood-stained mattress in a bedroom of his four-room apartment as he returned home from work on the night shift at the Jamestown Metal Specialties, Inc.

Mother And Baby Raped, Strangled

JAMESTOWN, N. Y., July 12 (AP)—A 26-year-old mother and her 19-month-old daughter were found murdered in their basement apartment today and police said the husband's brother had admitted raping, beating and strangling them.

Police said Joseph Reade, 25, an unemployed taxi driver, had signed a statement admitting that he killed his sister-in-law, Mrs. Beverly Reade, and little Cheryl Lynn Reade.

Their nude bodies were found by Mrs. Reade's husband, Francis, 23, when he returned home from his night-shift factory job in this southwestern New York furniture city.

Sidney T. Hewes, assistant Chautauqua County district attorney, said Joseph Reade would be charged with first-degree murder.

Onslow Boy, 16, Facing Charges

Bound Over For Grand Jury Action In Morals Case Hearing

JACKSONVILLE, March 25—A 16-year-old Jacksonville youth, son of a minister, was bound over to the grand jury on a morals charge last night by a justice of the peace.

The boy was identified by the eight-year-old boy and his seven-year-old sister, whom he had molested several days ago.

The two children were playing under one end of the bridge that separates the city from the county when the older boy approached them and asked the little girl to participate in immoral acts. He allegedly offered her money ranging from five cents to five dollars.

When she ran away, he grabbed the eight-year-old boy and forced him to take part in the immoral acts.

The little boy told the JP specifically what the older child made him do and specifically identified him as his assailant.

The youth was apprehended last Friday afternoon by Jacksonville police when they received a call from the molested boy telling them (the police) that his father was holding the boy down by the bridge. The two molested children and their parents were walking to a Jacksonville movie last Friday afternoon and as they crossed the same bridge where the alleged crime took place, the children spotted their assailant and the father ran to catch him and sent his son to call the police.

The youth is free on $5,000 bail secured by his father.

Merchant Faces Rape Count

A prominent eastern Wake County merchant and former farmer has been accused by a 41-year-old Raleigh Negro woman of attempting to rape her, local police reported yesterday.

This same man was convicted in City Court last July on a morals charge involving another Negro woman. Police identified the man as Vance Raybon Jr., 32, of Wendell, Route 2.

Detective W. G. Maddrey said Raybon was arrested yesterday morning on a warrant sworn out by Roberta Davis of 308 W. Cabarrus St.

Here is the woman's story as related by Detectives Maddrey and R. L. Ennis:

Raybon and a Negro man named James McCrae of 1142 Sawyers Lane came to Roberta's house Wednesday afternoon. Roberta was standing on the porch when McCrae called to her, saying, "Here's a man who wants you to work for him."

She walked over to the car where Raybon told her he wanted her to work at his drive-in, waiting on customers and cooking, and that he would pay her $20 a week. He wanted her to start work that afternoon.

She said she got into the back seat and Raybon drove to McCrae's house and dropped him off. Raybon then drove out on the Garner Road and stopped about six miles from Raleigh. He asked her to get in the front seat with him, she said, so that she wouldn't sit on the chickens he had in the back seat.

She said she got into the front seat where Raybon put his hands on her and offered her $25. He then offered her $50, she said, but she refused. She said Raybon then attempted to get on top of her. She found a piece of pipe on the floorboard of the car and struck him with it when he tore her dress.

Raybon then jumped out of the car, she said, and fled. After noting the car's license number, she walked back to Raleigh.

Maddrey said Raybon was brought to the police station where he was confronted by the woman and McCrae who told the same story as related above. Raybon admitted nothing, Maddrey said, and was released under $5,000 bond for appearance in City Court April 20.

Raybon and a Negro woman named Cora Lee Graham, 25, were convicted in City Court last July on charges of indecent exposure and disorderly conduct. Judge Albert Doub sentenced each of them to six months in prison.

Police officer Joe Batchelor testified in the City Court trial that he found Raybon and the woman in a car parked behind Johnny's Supper Club on the night of July 7. They wer lying down on the front seat, he said, and neither had on any clothes from the waist down.

Raybon appealed his conviction and the woman began serving her term in Woman's Prison July 7. Later, her case was appealed, and was entered on the docket of Wake Superior Court July 23. Raleigh Attorneys Will Yarborough and Ben Templeton were listed as attorneys for both Raybon and Cora Lee Graham on the Superior Court docket.

Raybon's case was called unexpectedly on a Friday afternoon just before court adjourned for the week on January 7. None of the State witnesses were in court, but Judge C. W. Hall of Durham accepted a plea of guilty for Raybon by Attorney Templeton to public drunkenness and disorderly conduct. Yarborough dropped out of the case when he was appointed assistant Solicitor of Wake Superior Court.

After pleading guilty to the lesser charges, Raybon was ordered to pay a fine of $50 and costs of court.

Solicitor Lester Chalmers was asked about the handling of Raybon's case yesterday, and said he remembered that it was called and that there was a conference between the judge and Raybon's attorney. He said he agreed to accepting a plea to the lesser offense. "That's about all I remember about the case," he said.

The woman's appeal is still on the docket and has been continued each term since July 23.

Raybon operates a general merchandise store in Lizzard Lick just north of Wendell and has several tobacco farms. He is married and has two children.

Kidnaping, Rape Claimed

FAYETTEVILLE, April 20 — A 25-year-old woman, wife of a Fort Bragg paratrooper corporal, told Fayetteville police today she was kidnaped by four men in the downtown area here and driven to a country residence, where she was raped and held captive for four days.

Mrs. Lorraine Shelton, who has lived here with her husband, Cpl. Ray Shelton of Company C, 503d Airborne Infantry Regiment, Fort Bragg, since last February, said the kidnaping occurred last Thursday.

She said she was standing near a soda shop on Market Square about 7 p. m. with her Pekinese dog.

Mrs. Shelton told police that a car drove up to the curb and two men jumped out and forced her into the vehicle where two other men were seated.

They drove for several hours, she said, and arrived at a four-room white house occupied by a man and a woman. During the period she was held captive, two of the men took away her dog, she reported. She said she understood they pawned it to someone for non-taxpaid whiskey.

The men released her yesterday, she told police. She said she hitch-hiked home on Highway 301 and notified police after reaching her home here.

Police said the woman was uncertain as to the location of the house where she said she was held captive and did not know whether it was in Cumberland or Harnett County.

Cumberland County police said her husband reported her missing Sunday and they had contacted authorities in Wilmington, where her husband said he believed she might have gone.

After she made her report to city police, Mrs. Shelton was given an examination at the Fort Bragg Hospital.

MAN CHARGED WITH ASSAULT

RALEIGH, N. C.—(ANP)—A 41-year-old white man, charged with raping a 10-year-old Negro girl, has waived a magistrate's hearing and been released under $1,000 bond.

Benny Norton, a country storekeeper, was arrested after the child's mother filed a complaint charging Norton with assaulting the child when she went to his store for a bottle of soda.

"I'm not guilty," Norton told Magistrate H. A. Bland at the hearing. "Judge, I don't know a thing about the law. But my wife said we'd rather get a lawyer."

A deputy sheriff was allowed to secure a lawyer for the defendant. The lawyer, Carl Caddy, asked that the hearing be waived and requested reduction of bond from $5,000 to $1,000.

Norton claimed that the child's mother had a large debt at the store and had invented the story of the assault to avoid paying.

Man Held On Rape Count

WHITEVILLE, Aug. 2—A 22-year-old Columbus County white man was arrested here over the weekend on a charge of assault with intent to rape a 12-year-old Negro girl, Sheriff J. R. Pridgen announced.

Ernest Todd, local service station attendant, is being held in Columbus County jail in lieu of $2,500 bond.

Sheriff Pridgen's office said Todd was charged with assaulting Mamie White near here on the Chadbourn - Whiteville highway about 11 a. m. Sunday.

She told deputies that she was walking to church when a man identified as Todd drove by in his auto, turned around and asked if she wanted to ride. After her refusal, she said, the man jumped out and attacked her. She reportedly tore a pocket off his shirt and began screaming, causing him to flee.

Todd admitted he was in the area at the time, saying he was looking for a Negro woman to stay with his wife, who is an expectant mother. Deputies H. D. Stanley, W. B. Roebuck and L. B. Stubbs investigated.

Man Sought In Rape of Niece

GASTONIA, July 30 (AP)—A 43-year-old Gastonia textile worker was sought today on charges of raping his 16-year-old niece.

Officers identified him as Lacy Caldwell, and the girl as Barbara Bearden.

Magistrate D. Beaty Price, who issued the warrant, said the girl told this story:

She had been visiting here and the uncle agreed to return her yesterday to her home at Greenwood, S.C. He drove off U.S. 321 onto a Gaston County side road near Bethany, S. C., and attack her in the car. After they crossed the state line he threatened to attack her again.

When he stopped the car at a traffic light in York, S.C., she jumped out and ran into a service station, locking herself in the rest room. He put her suitcase out and drove off.

York County police brought her back to Gastonia and the case was turned over to Gaston County authorities.

Pregnant Fayetteville Housewife Is Attacked; Third Such Incident Within Week

FAYETTEVILLE, Sept. 1 — Police tonight said they had arrested Romeo L. Lambert in an alleged assault on a pregnant Fayetteville housewife.

She was the third female to be attacked and terrorized within a week.

Police quoted Lambert as saying, "I just wanted to feel—not criminally assault."

The attack, which occurred as the housewife walked through a parking area back of the Junior High School on her way to her home on Pershing Street was the third sex-motivated attack occurring there during the past week.

A 13-year-old girl and a Rowan Street housewife were molested Wednesday a week ago, the girl outside the public library and the woman on Ray Avenue near Hay Street.

Attacked last night at 8:15 was a pregnant housewife. She said she noticed a white man near the cement steps of the school and that he followed her and grabbed her violently about the body.

She screamed, she said, and he threw her to the ground, placing one hand over her mouth and choking her with the other.

Hearing the woman's cries, Cpl. Robert Spriggs, a Pershing Street resident, rushed to aid the woman as she struggled on the ground, but her assailant fled into the night as he approached.

Other residents of the area later saw a man running in the vicinity of the attack and phoned police, giving his description. About 9 o'clock detectives nabbed the Erwin suspect in a Gillespie Street barroom.

The suspect, 20 years old, previously had been charged in Greensboro with attempted rape and was found guilty of assault on a female, a lesser offense. He was given a six month term for this, records indicate.

In Fayetteville, he has been convicted of window peeping, prowling and disorderly conduct.

The Pershing Street housewife suffered bruises about the arms and body and a cut lip as a result of the attack.

Police are seeking to ascertain whether the suspect is the man who committed the two previously reported attacks. In both of these instances a man was frightened away by screams and resistance after he had mauled the woman and the girl.

9017

GIRL'S FATHER TELLS OF NEGRO'S DEMANDS

Okinawan Claims Memphian Assaulted Daughter

An Okinawan farmer, Jiro Itosu, shuffled across a courtroom in Naha, Okinawa, yesterday and accused Marine Pfc. Raymond E. Parker of Memphis of criminally attacking his 7-year-old daughter, the Associated Press reported.

The father's testimony was translated from Okinawan through Japanese into English for the Marine General Court Martial Board as he told of a midnight call by the Memphis Negro. Itosu said Parker demanded his wife, then abducted the child after the wife and an older daughter fled.

Itosu told the court he had run to a nearby house to seek aid from a neighborhood youth association. He said when he got back, his daughter and the intruder had disappeared.

The farmer testified he later found his child crying at the bottom of a hill.

Parker's defense counsel, Capt. Andrew B. Moritz of Ipswich, S. C., objected to Itosu's testimony on the ground that translation difficulties prevented adequate cross examination and thereby deprived the accused of his constitutional rights. The attorney was overruled.

Tech. Sgt. Roy T. Cox of Pacific Beach, Calif., testified he took a statement from Parker and that the Memphian asked him, "What do you think I'll get out of this?"

Capt. Marion C. Drake, Ryukyu Army Hospital obstetrician who examined the child, told the court martial board she could have been the victim of attempted rape.

Private Parker will be 22 today. He is the son of Willie and Mouzie Parker of 1557 Tayner.

9018

86-year-old woman is assaulted, slain

NEWPORT, R. I., April 25—(AP)—Police were seeking clues today in the rape slaying of Miss Susan B. Franklin, 86, a retired school teacher and member of an old Newport family.

Her body was found yesterday on a bed in her colonial home, where she lived alone, in the historic "Point Section" of fashionable Newport.

Her hands were tied behind her back and her ankles were bound with heavy cord.

Medical Examiner Arthur E. O'Dea said she was beaten on the face and raped. Death was due to asphyxiation.

Police Capt. John P. Connolly said "There is no suspect and there is little to go on."

9019

KIDNAP, RAPE CHARGE FILED IN HUMBOLDT

Commercial Appeal 8-15-55

Officer Finds Logger With Abducted 8-Year-Old

Special to The Commercial Appeal

HUMBOLDT, Tenn., Aug. 14.— A 50-cent piece clutched in her little fist, an eight-year-old Humboldt schoolgirl was taken to a local hospital Saturday night while a Humboldt logger was being charged with kidnaping and rape.

Roble Bill Sikes, 27, was arrested about 7:30 p.m. as he entered a small country road about two miles north of Humboldt.

Shortly after the abduction had been reported to local police, Patrolman James Cude, assigned to the city hall desk, told a companion he felt he should take a "look around the Duffy woods area," often a site for "petting parties."

"I drove out there and parked my car on the highway," Patrolman Cude said. "I walked into the woods, looke around, and then started back out. Sikes and the little girl then drove into the road. He didn't attempt to flee."

Sheriff Guy Bradshaw of Trenton said Sikes lured the child into a logging truck about 6:30 p.m. by giving her a half dollar.

The child was taken to St. Mary's Hospital here where she is still undergoing examination.

Pregnant Woman Charges Assault

27h(2) 1955

HOUSTON — A 21year-old mother, expecting her third child, is suffering from a broken collar bone and broken ankle which she received when she was viciously pushed from a car driven by an unidentified white man whom she charges, forced her into the car and attempted to rape her here last Thursday night.

Mrs. Lola Mae Reese of 2211½ Davis was taken to Jefferson Davis Hospital after she regained consciousness while lying on the ground on U. S. Highway 75 near the South Wind Motel. She was later removed to her home. She charges that the man forced her into his car in the 6700 block of Airline Drive where she works.

The white man, whom she described as wearing a brown army shirt and a light brown cap, has not been found. She said he was driving a black car with four doors.

Mrs. Reese told an Informer reporter Monday that she had just got off from work at Lee's Cafe shortly after 11:00 p. m. and had walked across the street from the Cafe and was waiting for her sister to pick her up when the stranger drove pass her.

"He turned around real fast and drove back to where I was standing", the injured mother divulged. She said he got out and pushed something that felt like a gun "into my back and told me not to holler then he twisted my right hand behind my back and put one of his hands over my mouth and shelved me into the car."

She stated that the man forced her on the floor behind the front seat and held her with one hand while he drove with the other. "He started making insulting remarks about what he was going to do to me before the night was over and I hit him. That's the last thing I remember. When I came to myself, I was lying near the highway with some people standing around me", Mrs. Reese declared.

She said she did not know if the man hit her before pushing her out of the car or not. "I don't remember what he did to me", Mrs. Reese stated.

Storekeeper Charged With Molesting Girl

Informer

Aut. 9-10-55

DALLAS—

Charges hav been filed in the District Attorneys Office on Ellihue Northcut.

P. 20

Northcut (white) who operates a small Grocery Store at 3019 Oakland has been filed on for fondling a 9-year-old Negro girl. Records show that on August 23, about 4 p.m. the little girl went to Northcut's Store and at which time he grabbed the girl and pulled her behind the meat counter and exposed person to her and fondled her.

The mother of the child who lives in Peabody the Oakland Area told a reporter that on the evening of August 23, she sent her two daughters to the store to get bread, cigarettes and ice cream.

Her daughters, age 9 and 8 years old, had been instructed to go to another store to get the items. On going to the store they found no ice cream, they decided that the 9 year old girl would go to th Northcut store to get the ice cream.

Houston Sepe

On returning home the little girl related to her mother what had happened. She stated that when she arrived at the Northcut store nobody was there except the store owner, and when she entered Northcut pulled her behind the meat box, showed her his person and pulled up her dress and fondled her.

When asked if she had heard of any such trouble at thi: store before the mother stated that after she told neighbors about the incident she was informed then that Northcut had previously molested some other girls in the community. She further stated that she at first didn't want to make trouble for the man for fear some physical harm might come to her and her children but on second thought she thought of what might happen to other little girls if she let this type of thing go un-reported.

Northout could not be reached for comment.

White Man Charged With Rape Attempt On 2 Tots

Informer

Aut. 9-10-55

HOUSTON — A 46-year-old white man was arrested Saturday in connection with an alleged attempt to rape two small Negro girls, one four and the other eight, shortly after noon Friday, an offense repeort in the Sheriff's department revealed.

The man was identified as William T. Ballard, who gave his address as 108 Palmer street. He was taken into custody by Sheriff's deputies at 2116 Austin the address of a Madam Hilda, for whom the man was said to have been distributing circulars advertising her as a reader.

27h(2) 1955

Houston Sepe

The Sheriff's department launched a big manhunt when reports of the incident were received. Several cars of officers, an airplane and some dogs from Sugarland were used in the search to find the man, who had escaped several residents in the vicinity who were chasing him.

Reports are that the little four-year-old girl was along with her brother, 7 and sister, 9, at their aunt's house. Their aunt, Mrs Naomi Haynes and mother, Mrs Ruth Ann Carr, had gone to the store. A man, who was said to have been leaving the circulars, advertising Madam Hilda, allegedly came by and the oldest girl answered the door.

He handed the girl a circular and asked for a drink of water, reports disclosed, then asked several questions involving sex. Later he took the baby girl next door at 9116 Daffodile where she lived and stripped her down to her sunsuit top, the larger children reported. He was about to attempt sexual relations with her, records showed, when he saw the little girl's sister and brother who had followed him into their house.

The man was said to have sent the little girl to put on her clothes and told the other children not to tell anybody what they had seen then fled towards Jeanetta Road.

After running down Jeanetta, he reportedly met the eight-year-old girl at Munsey and chased her home. The latter girl's mother called her neighbors and they ran him down Munsey to a dead end then the man was said to have jumped into a cotton patch and eluded his pursuers.

Deputies got Madam Hilda's address off of one of the circulars and went to her locations to check on the man.

P. 20

According to reports, Madam Hilda said she had hired a man about a week previous to the incident to pass out the circulars and she had given him a dollar and a meal. She said she did not see him anymore afterwards but promised to notify the Sheriff's department if he returned.

She called about 7:30 a m Saturday and reported that the man had returned, records showed. The officers picked up Mr Ballard and turned him over to Juvenile authorities.

Girl, 11, Lays Molesting To White Driver

Informer

Aut. 9-10-55

27h(2)

HOUSTON— An angry young mother, who lives in Pleasantville, Monday revealed to the Informer that she had filed charges of molesting a minor against an Imperial Laundry driver after she charged the driver indecently fondled her 11-year-old daughter in their home when he came to pick up clothing Saturday afternoon.

Houston Sepe

Martin W. Schulte, Frieze Cutstone, the driver, was arrested two hours after the alleged incident and filed on in Judge Thompson's court for molesting a minor. He has denied the charges.

In the meantime, the little girl's parents retained Attorney A. Wycliffe to handle the case. He told the Informer that the parents are planning to file suit against the driver and the laundry.

The child's mother told The Informer that she was outside with her eight year old son hanging up clothes when her little girl called her and said the laundryman was there. She said she told the child to give her suit that was on the divan to the man.

She said just about two minutes after she told the child to give the man the suit, she heard the child scream for her. "I ran in the house and my little boy ran around to the front of the house. I saw the man run out and get in his truck," she declared.

The child said when the laundryman came to the house, she gave him the suit and went into the bedroom to make up her bed. When she knew anything the man had come up behind her and put his hands on her breasts. She said she pushed him away and scream-

ed for her mother and the man ran out the house.

According to a signed written statement made in the Crime Prevention office by Mr Schulze, he alleged that he came by the apartment of the child's mother and asked if they had any clothes. He said the mother talked to him about a puzzle contest she was working. Then he said later on he had a delivery to make at an apartment next to hers and he went to the apartment and the child was there. He claimed the child told him her mother was at the Beauty shop and she called her mother on the phone and her mother told her to give him a blue suit to put in the cleaners. He declared when the girl went to get it he was talking to her about some furs they had on a bed and stated the child had told him her daddy had killed a fox.

The man continued while she was standing there he did put his hands on her with no intent of molesting or harming her. He said it was possible that he could have put his hands on her breast.

He said the child then walked in the living room and handed him the paper to show who had won in the puzzle contest. He said he then walked out to the truck that was parked in the front of the house and marked his ticket and went to his next stop.

He divulged that later on the child's father had stopped him and asked him about the incident and he told him what had happened and the man told him to forget it and to pick up his money on the next time out and not to stop there for clothes any more.

The girl charged that the man asked her how would she like to go "up North" with him when he molested her.

Tuesday morning the driver told The Informer that the "whole thing is just a misunderstanding" and that he hoped "it can be cleared up to the satisfaction of all concerned."

He said he had been told that the girl was going to take a trip up north and that he jokingly touched her and asked her when she was leaving on the trip.

"I had no wrong intentions toward the child." he said.

9021

Blond admits attack on girl

6-year-old found slashed and beaten

VINTON, Va. — Six-year-old Ruth Thomasson was found in the kitchen of a neighbor's home June 14, unconscious and doubled in a knot. She had been slashed, beaten and raped.

A 23-year-old white man, formerly of Baltimore, later confessed to the act. The house in which the attack took place is about a half of a block from the child's home.

The assailant, a man by the name of Goff, was not discovered until evening. Ruth's mother and father work during the day.

ALTHOUGH THE child received a fractured skull, brain concussion, multiple forehead and neck bruises and several minor cuts on her body, hospital attendants said she is doing alright.

Goff said that when he returned from a walk he found the little girl in the kitchen of the home he was visiting. He said he remembers striking her and picking up an 8-inch butcher knife.

After the attack he locked her in the house and hitch hiked to Lynchburg where he is reported to have gone to a fire station and asked for a preacher saying he wanted to make a confession.

271 1955 REPORTS ON, SENT PRESS DISCONTINUED

9022

What Other Newspapers Say

Defender Chicago, Ill

Survey Replaces Report

(From Chicago Daily News)

For many years, Tuskegee Institute, the famous Alabama Negro school, issued an annual report on the number of lynchings in the United States. The report was considered a kind of rough measure of racial friction.

After the report of 1953, when lynchings had dwindled to zero, the report was abandoned. In its place is an annual survey of racial problems. Contrary to the view that might be expected, the "great body of laws. . .regulating race relations" is regarded with misgivings. The Institute suggests that individual freedom to work out these problems is preferable to strict legal regulation of conduct.

Pat 4-16-55

In other words, arbitrary dictation of behavior, by government or anyone else, is not the way to freedom. The passing of special laws did not stop lynching. The growth of popular intelligence did. Racial fractions will likewise yield to the spread of the wisdom and understanding shown in the attitude of Tuskegee.

Four cons who kidnaped officer elude big posse

DADEVILLE, Ala., Feb. 3 —(AP)—State and county officers stood guard around the rugged Lake Martin country south of Dadeville today hoping to trap four men who kidnaped a suspicious state highway patrolman late yesterday.

The patrolman, E. L. Hancock, was released unharmed in a densely wooded backwater area after the fugitives had threatened several times to kill him. He walked eight miles to the nearest highway and borrowed a car to drive into Dadeville and give an alarm.

ONE OF THE ABDUCTORS was positively identified as C. H. Bartlett, 24, an escaped convict, said Public Safety Director Bill Lyerly. The other three also are believed to have been among the nine convicts who escaped from a prison bus at McRae, Ga., last Friday.

First reports said there were five kidnapers in the car stopped by Patrolman Hancock because it bore no license tag. But Lyerly said one later was identified as a man named Smith, a brother-in-law of Bartlett's brother, George Bartlett, of Opelika.

The public safety director said Smith told officers that C. H. Bartlett and the other three men took the brother's car and forced Smith to accompany them. Smith escaped during the scuffle that started with the patrolman's abduction, Lyerly explained.

The search this morning through the tangled "Goldmine" district about 10 miles south of here was under the personal direction of Lyerly and Patrol Chief Tom Carlisle.

The officers were prepared to track down the fugitives on foot if necessary. A blue 1952 sedan believed to be the car in which they were riding was found abandoned south of here last night.

A hitchhiker told Dadeville Policeman T. E. Lester he had seen the men at the Red Ridge community near Martin Dam.

Earlier, the Patrol had thrown up road blocks enclosing a wide area between Auburn and Alexander City. The section around Camp Hill and Dadeville was sealed off by heavily armed officers.

THE MEN were all convicted of felonies in Georgia. None was listed as being from Alabama although one Patrol source said one of the convicts, Bartlett, is believed to have grown up in this section.

Hancock said he stopped their car near Camp Hill late yesterday afternoon when he noticed it had no license tag. When he asked the driver to get out of the car, the man came out with a .38 caliber pistol in his hand.

FBI Probes Union Charge Of Mob Threat In Sylacauga

Special to The Post-Herald

The Birmingham FBI office announced yesterday it is investigating the charge of a union organizer that he was ordered out of Sylacauga with threats of being bombed out and mobbed.

J. A. Robey, agent in charge of the local FBI office, said that he had received information from L. A. Gossett, CIO Textile Workers Union, which his agents "are checking, to see if there has been a violation of federal laws."

Gossett came to Birmingham from Sylacauga Tuesday after, he told The Post-Herald, he and his co-workers had received more than a dozen telephone threats that day to "get out of town."

He said the owner of the motel at which he was staying also had been warned to get rid of his guests or run the risk of being bombed.

Gossett said the callers told him to "get out of town or your life's in danger.

"If you don't, we're going to bomb the place where you are staying, cut your tires and put steel shavings in your gas tank.

"We'll come in a mob and get you," Gossett said he was told.

Gossett said that he and his co-workers, Grant Williams and Freddie Halstead, were forced to leave another motel over the week-end because the owner was threatened with mob violence.

Gossett said that the three of them were accosted by a group of workers at the mill in Sylacauga last week and forced into their car and ordered to leave.

He said a large number of pamphlets they took there with them were destroyed.

Gossett said he had sworn warrants against three of the mill workers who ejected them from the mill.

Gossett said the case is to be heard in Sylacauga Monday.

Gossett said he also filed a complaint with the National Labor Relations Board Friday in Atlanta.

He said a NLRB representative had been in Sylacauga taking statements since Tuesday.

27J 1955

CALIFORNIA

9024

Posse Hunts 2 Brothers In Policeman Shooting

Post-Herald
Thurs. 9-1-55
1-2

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 31 (AP)—A hundred peace officers, directed by helicopters, combed woods and hills 25 miles north of here today for two brothers after a traffic policeman was shot in Hollywood.

Police identified the brothers as Michael Karabeles, 28, an Army lieutenant recently discharged after serving in the German occupation forces, and Spiro Karabeles, 31, a former Alcatraz convict.

Traffic Sgt. Stewart Duncan, 34, said Spiro shot him when he stopped the brothers for a minor traffic violation. Duncan said he was searching the younger Karabeles and had just found an automatic in a shoulder holster when Spiro fired three shots at him point-blank.

The policeman, who served with the First Marine Division and was recommended for the Congressional Medal of Honor, was shot in the left arm and a finger of his left hand.

He fired at the fleeing brothers, staggered to his radio car, called for help, described and identified the fugitives and collapsed.

Police said they had gathered this account of the Milwaukee-born brothers' recent movements:

On July 3 they abandoned a car in Washington, D. C., along with a sawed-off .22 rifle and a Luger automatic. They left their wives in the East and were traced through Tennessee, Kentucky and Mississippi.

Officers said they stole a car in Las Vegas last weekend and headed for California.

(In Washington, police reported the brothers' 1954 Oldsmobile was impounded July 18 in the 600 block of 15th st. nw. A sawed-off shotgun with eight bullets and a Luger automatic with 37 rounds of ammunition were found in the abandoned car. Investigation disclosed the car had been involved in an accident on Bladensburg rd. ne., but the owner of the other car involved could not be located.)



Associated Press

SGT. STEWART DUNCAN
. . . his assailants sought

27j 1955

LOUISIANA

9025

Attack Suspect Sought by Posse

BATON ROUGE, Oct. 11 (AP)—Some 100 officers and armed civilians spread their net over a wider area Tuesday in the search for a Negro who apparently attempted to rape a white woman motorist.

Sheriff's deputies reported they closed in on a wooded area near Joor Road on the northern outskirts of Baton Rouge but didn't locate the suspect.

So the officer, civilians, mounted posse, bloodhounds and airplanes extended their search to cover more ground in the same general area.

The woman, who was not identified, apparently was unharmed, but she was hysterical and nearly incoherent when taken to a hospital.

An officer described the attack as "attempted rape."

Norman J. Duval, a resident in the neighborhood where the incident took place, said the woman told of a Negro who forced his way into her automobile about 11 p. m. Monday night at a service station.

She told Duval the Negro forced her to drive out Joor Road and stop near Duval's house. Her screams attracted Duval and his sudden appearance on his front porch apparently frightened the attacker.

Duval said he saw a man—apparently a Negro—flee the automobile.

9827

FORMER DOG CATCHER IS WOUNDED BY POSSE

West Point Man Had Shot Commissioner, Patrolman

WEST POINT, Miss., Jan. 17 — (AP) — A posse critically wounded former dog catcher D. A. Thompson late Monday after Thompson shot a city commissioner and a highway patrolman, police reported.

The posse pinned him down behind an automobile and then shot him as he tried to escape. The end of the manhunt came two hours after City Commissioner John A. Phelps was wounded in the back with a shotgun blast and Highway Patrolman Lloyd Bean was wounded in the head, police said.

Neither Mr. Phelps nor Patrolman Bean was reported seriously injured.

City police, sheriff's deputies and highway patrolmen joined the hunt after Mr. Phelps was shot. They cornered Thompson in the central part of the county.

No other details were avail-

Posse Kills Man After Two Shot

WEST POINT, Miss., Jan. 17 (AP) — A posse killed former dog catcher D. A. Thompson late Monday after Thompson shot a city commissioner and a highway patrolman, police reported.

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Neither Phelps nor Bean was reported seriously injured.

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POSSE NABS SUSPECT IN ROBBERY OF BANK

Commercial Appeal

Augusta Resident Wanted In $8,200 Joiner Holdup

Memphis, Tenn.

HUNT WIDENS FOR TWO

Special to The Commercial Appeal

KENNETT, Mo., Aug. 4. — A 91%year-old Augusta, Ark., man suspected of participating in the robbery of the Joiner, Ark., Branch of the Mississippi County Bank Thursday was captured late Thursday afternoon by a posse which chased him up a tree.

The Missouri Highway Partol said the man was William Anderson. A search was started in the Leachville, Ark., area Thursday night for two others who aided in the robbery.

About $4,000 Recovered

Officers said about $4,000 of the money taken from the bank was recovered. Bank officials said about $8,200 was missing, most of it in small bills.

Cashier William Landrum said two men entered the bank at noon while he was alone.

"I had seen them standing on the highway (Highway 61 runs through oJiner) a few minutes earlier and though they were trying to hitch a ride," Mr. Landrum said.

"I started to walk behind the cashier's partition and one of the men pulled a gun. The other came from the other side and made me lie down on the floor. They tied my hands," the cashier said.

Although he was forced to lie face down and warned by the men that he was not to look at them, Mr. Landrum said he noted one of the men had a deep scar on his left cheek. Officers said Anderson had such a scar.

Both Wore Dark Glasses

Mr. Landrum said both men were wearing dark glasses and jersey gloves. Mr. Landrum wah pushed into the bank vault where his feet were bound. The gunmen slammed the vault door and rifled two of the three cash drawers, missing a third one. The cashier was bruised when he struck some safety deposit boxes.

Mr. Landrum said he heard the men leave by the back door and it is believed their car was parked beside the bank.

The cashier said he freed his feet and managed to work the bank vault's inside catch. He was finally freed by Mrs. J. H. Bichling, a customer who entered the bank about 15 minutes after the robbery.

Officers said several persons saw three men in the getaway car and it is presumed that one man stayed in the auto while the holdup was in progress.

9028

Farmer Killed Battling Posse

27j

Boston Globe

GRYGLA, Minn., June 30 (AP) A farmer died in a gun battle with a sheriff today when a posse of 30 surrounded his home after he had wounded two sheriffs deputies.

Dead was Ole Williamson, 62. Deputies Dale Russell and Albert W. Bennington were slightly wounded by Williamson when they went to his home to bring him in for a mental examination. A posse came to arrest him and in the exchange of shots Williamson was wounded three times. He died 10 minutes later.

27j 1955

NORTH CAROLINA

9029

Posse Searches For Man Who Shot Craven Officer

NEW BERN, March 26 — A posse searching the woods near here tonight for a man who shot Craven County deputy sheriff while the officer was repossessing a gas range from his home.

Deputy Tom Bayliss was reported in serious condition at St. Luke's Hospital here tonight.

Officers said the 32-year-old officer was shot in the back with a shotgun by Joe Bryant, Negro who lives just outside New Bern on Highway 17.

Craven Sheriff Charlie Berry said Bryant's car, in which he fled after the shooting, was found early tonight.

County authorities and members of the State Highway Patrol were searching a patch of woods near Bryant's home tonight. Bryant did not take the gun into the woods, officers said.

Bryant, a farmer, reportedly has no court record.

Deputy Sheriff Bayliss had accompanied Clyde Boyette to Bryant's home and the two men had placed the gas range on a truck when the shooting occurred. They were preparing to leave when Bayliss was shot in the small of the back.

Bryant reportedly threatened Boyette after shooting Bayliss and forced the deputy off with the wounded man in his car. Boyette drove two miles to a telephone and summoned an ambulance.

9030

A DISPLACED PERSON

ot in self defense, sserts S. C. pastor

JAMES L. HICKS

YORK—"Yes, I fired my ... those men. And I'm sorry ... I missed the car."

... was the latter admission ... Rev. J. A. DeLaine, mili... South Carolina foe of segre... who fled his native state ... in fear of his life. ... is a displaced person and ... personally responsible for ... safety," AME Bishop D. ... Nichols told the AFRO ...

DISCLOSING that the hunt... minister is in New York City, ... Nichols revealed that the ... has been notified of his ...abouts and informed that ... will not return to South ...

...Laine's arrest was issued at ... warrant for the Rev. Mr. ...nce, S.C., after two of four ... men riding past the min...'s home were injured when ... fired on the car.

...shooting was in the wake ... campaign of terror waged ... Mr. DeLaine since he led ...uccessful fight against seg...ed schools in Clarendon ...

* * *

AS THE RESULT of his fight ...inst segregation, white South ...inians have:

1. Burned his funeral home at ...merton. In that fire, the all... fire department was criti... for delay in reaching the ...
2. Foreclosed the mortgage on ... farm and home at Summer... although he was not in ar... with his payments.
3. Pitched rotton vegetables ... and whiskey bottles and ... through the windows of ...rsonage at Lake City.
4. Burned down the St. James ... Church to which he had been assigned as pastor at ... City, S.C.
5. Mailed him several letters threatening his life. The last one gave him 10 days to leave town and closed with the warning:

"We have made plans to move you if it takes dynamite to do so. This is final." The letter was turned over to U.S. Postal Agents.

ACTING AS spokesman for Dr. DeLaine, Bishop Nichols told the AFRO:

"He was driven out of South Carolina. He came out not from fear but to save his life.

"He cannot be considered a fugitive since he has notified the FBI of his whereabouts. He has no information from South Carolina and has only heard that they want him.

"I have offered him a church in my district (First Episcopal). I have one available.

"He is in my care, under my supervision. He is going to stay in New York and his wife is going to join him shortly."

* * *

SPEAKING OF the alleged assault charge leveled against the South Carolina pastor, Bishop Nichols said: "Every man has the right to defend his home which is his sanctuary.

"A man who defends his home is as legal as a man who defends his person. It's self defense. We are going to fight this thing with everything we have got.

"It's a matter of principle. He does not deny defending his home, but we have got to stop this legal lynching in the South and this illegal trampling on the rights of colored people.

"I feel personally responsible for his safety, not only as an AME minister and as a colored man, but he's a displaced person as much as any displaced person who comes to America from a foreign land.

"He is a displaced person from an area in which they do not practice American customs in our country," Bishop Nichols insisted.

MEANWHILE, A state investigator denied that he said the fire which destroyed the Rev. Mr. DeLaine's church was an act of arson. He explained that he said the fire was of "incendiary origin."

The investigator, Horace McClain, said that any results of current investigations into the cause of the blaze will have to come out of the office of the state fire marshal, R. E. Kelley.

The National Board of Fire Underwriters is cooperating with the state in an effort to determine just what caused the church to burn. It has been variously attributed to vandals and racists.

Kelley said that his office "cannot make a statement relative to the church burning until after the investigators have completed their work."

* * *

DR. DeLAINE told the AFRO at Charleston last week that he didn't know why he is now the object of a sudden attack.

Since his transfer to Lake City, from Clarenden County, he said, he hasn't been active in civic matters, contenting himself with his church duties.

However, sources in Lake City charge the attacks to the newly organized chapter there of the White Citizens' Council, setup shortly before the DeLaine assaults began.

Bishop Frank M. Reid, who just reassigned Dr. DeLaine to Lake City, and fellow AME ministers in South Carolina, told agents of the State Law Enforcement Division (Sled) that they did not know of the Rev. Mr. DeLaine's whereabouts.

* * *

ONE PASTOR, who asked that his name be withheld, said that when "and if necessary, the Rev. Mr. DeLaine's bond will be posted on the spot. It's already assured, no matter what it amounts to."

Segregation Foe 'Runs For His Life'

SUMTER, S.C.—(UP)— A Negro bishop said Friday the Rev. J. A. DeLaine, who is wanted by police in connection with a shooting at Lake City, S. C., disappeared because he had to "run for his life."

DeLaine, who helped organize the Clarendon county school segregation suit in 1949, has been missing since Tuesday.

He is wanted in connection with an incident in which a rifle was fired into an automobile containing four White men. Two of the men were slightly injured.

The shooting occurred near the remains of DeLaine's church, which was swept by a mysterious fire last week. State investigators are seeking to determine if the fire was deliberately set.

DeLaine received a letter last week warning him to leave Lake City. Bishop Frank Madison Rid of Sumter said DeLaine's "life was in danger and he had to run for his life."